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LIVE 88·5FM

Jon Stewart's moment of Zen

Host retiring from The Daily Show after 16 years. Page 14

ROCKET'S GLORY DAYS ARE OVER

The Atlas rocket that has stood in front of the Canada Science and Technology Museum since 1973 will be taken down for safety reasons, the museum announced Tuesday. Weather has taken its toll on the rocket, which for years has required a compressor to maintain its internal air pressure and keep it from collapsing. Also disappearing from the museum's front lawn as a safety precaution is an oil pump jack installed in 1968. STEVE COLLINS/FOR METRO

City cuts ties with Plasco; 80 jobs lost

Employment. Affected workers will be paid for another month

Plasco Energy Group, the company that proposed to turn Ottawa's garbage into electricity at its plasma gasification plant, announced Tuesday that it has obtained protection from its creditors in hopes of buying enough time to find new investors or buyers.

A company spokesman said about 80 jobs were cut at the head office and at the Trail Road facility Tuesday morning, but the affected employees will be paid for another month.

The company made an application under the Companies' Creditors Arrangement Act, which protects insolvent companies with more than $5 million in debt from its creditors, typically halting any legal actions while the company restructures its finances. It has hired Houlihan Lokey Capital Inc. as its financial adviser.

In a memo to the mayor and council, city solicitor Rick O'Connor said the city had not yet been served with a copy of the court order approving Plasco's application but had sought an outside legal opinion on the city's options.

"There appears to be no barrier to the environment committee and city council proceeding with discussions and consideration of the city's options under the Waste Conversion Agreement with Plasco," he wrote.

The company had missed several city-imposed deadlines to sort out its finances, the most recent running out in December. Mayor Jim Watson indicated that the city is finished with Plasco and looking for a new waste-disposal solution.

"My priority is to go forward with a Request for Proposal or a Request for Interest to find a newer, better way to dispose our garbage," he said. "We wanted Plasco to succeed because if it did, it would have been world-class technology developed and really improved right here in Ottawa, but that's not to be, so we're going to have to move forward and ensure that we have a plan for the future."

Taxpayers, he emphasized, aren't out any money on the Plasco agreement.

"The only time we actually were paying Plasco was when they were disposing of our garbage," he said. "So if they're not disposing of garbage, we're not paying them."

The environment committee will consider a staff report on Plasco next Tuesday.

STEVE COLLINS/FOR METRO

Ottawa's tallest building gets planning approval

Development. 55-storey condo tower in Little Italy

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Skaters on Dow's Lake could one day be craning their necks to look up at Ottawa's tallest building, after a planning committee approved the condo tower on Tuesday.

The 55-storey mixed residential-commercial building is the tallest of three towers Richcraft Homes is planning for Little Italy. The other two would stand at 45- and 18-storeys.

Combined, the buildings are called "The Sky" and will house 1,100 units.

Ted Fobert, of architecture firm Fotenn Consultants Inc., said the towers will have a "positive" impact on the area.

"The existing restaurants and other retail activities on that street, I think, will benefit from the increased number of people that are going to be there," he said. "I think, also, it's going to become really an important tourist area."

Richcraft and Fotenn will eye the condo market before putting shovels in the ground, he said, which will likely be 2020 or later.

"Obviously, the current marketplace is low," said Fobert. "We have to get back to a more healthy condo market and I think that's probably a year to two away. At that point, obviously there's marketing and sales, so I think we're kind of in a three- to five-year horizon if the marketplace is good to get this project going."

The three towers will all be crowded on the Dow Honda car dealership lot at 845 Carling Ave. The dealership is moving to Colonnade and Merivale Road.

Because the building would stretch higher than the zoning bylaw allows, the city is asking for $3.4 million in "community benefits" that include "woonerfs" — streets built to give equal yield to cyclists and cars — and $1 million to bury the Hydro wires.

While Coun. Catherine McKenney said the project would absorb more homes in the crowded downtown area, she did not agree the wire burial would be a community benefit.

But city staff said the wire burial was a "priority initiative" for the area.

Developers say Little Italy is the ideal location because it's close to the O-Train and sits at the southwestern part of the city.

Apart from the ground floor commercial space, the plan includes a large plaza at the end of Sidney St. between the two tall towers that would connect to the O-Train station.

The project must go to council for approval.

A design of three new condo towers planned for Little Italy. One 55-storey building would be Ottawa's tallest tower.
COURTESY FOTENN CONSULTANTS INC.

Real estate. Home sales up in January, says board

Members of the Ottawa Real Estate Board sold 627 residential properties in January, a 6.8% increase over the 587 sold January 2014, just below the five-year average for January of 633 sales.

"The cold weather proved not to be a deterrent for buyers in January," said OREB president David Oikle.

"Residential and Condo sales combined, contributed to an increase in sales this month, and we are right on par with the January average. Residential two-storey and bungalow properties had the highest concentration of buyers. In addition to residential and condominium sales, OREB members assisted clients with renting 183 units this month."

Averages

The average sale price of residential properties, including condominiums, sold in January in the Ottawa area was $348,617, an increase of 0.5 per cent over January 2014. The average condo sale price was $250,406, a 5.8 per cent drop from January 2014. The average sale price of a residential-class property was $370,442, an increase of 0.5 per cent over January 2014.

January's sales included 114 in the condominium property class, and 513 in the residential property class. METRO

Convention

Millennium star coming to Ottawa Comiccon

Millennium star and a fan favourite from the Aliens movies, Lance Henriksen has been added to the list of attendees to the May 8 to 10 Ottawa Comiccon at the EY Centre.

Lance Henriksen
CONTRIBUTED

Organizers also announced a Valentine's Day contest asking residents to send them photos of their significant others in superhero costumes.

The Convention organizers will draw an entry at random and the winner will get a weekend for two at the Chateau Laurier plus two regular weekend passes to Ottawa Comiccon. The deadline to enter is Friday at 9 a.m.

Contest details can be found at ottawacomiccon.com/en/contests. Organizers say a winner will be revealed Friday at 5 p.m.
METRO

Accident

Man injured in three-storey fall

Ottawa paramedics responded to a call for a workplace accident that occurred in the 600 block of Wilson Street around 11:46 a.m. Tuesday.

A 23-year-old man suffered serious facial, head injuries as well as fractures to his leg and wrist after falling from a three-storey building. The man was clearing snow from the roof at the time of the incident, paramedics said. The worker is in serious condition in hospital. The Ontario Ministry of Labour is investigating the incident. METRO

Corrections

A story in Monday's edition of Metro incorrectly identified Forrestglade Crescent, the scene of a shooting, as being in Barrhaven when it was in fact in Gloucester-Southgate Ward.

A story in Tuesday's edition of Metro incorrectly identified the date of a press conference concerning the concerning the future of the Max Keeping Foundation. The event is in fact scheduled for Wednesday. METRO

A student at Mary Honeywell School raises his hand while Energy Minister Bob Chiarelli speaks at their assembly Tuesday. TREVOR GREENWAY/METRO

Schools take a shine to solar power, and rake in the green

Technology.
Rooftop solar panels generating revenue for solar company, Ottawa-Carleton District School Board

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Students at Mary Honeywell Elementary School were roaring during their Tuesday morning assembly, as Energy Minister Bob Chiarelli revealed just how much money the school is raising with their rooftop solar panels.

The school — and 37 others in the city — will help the Ottawa-Carleton District School Board earn a total of $7 million over the next 20 years from leasing its school rooftops to Potentia Solar Inc.

The company, which is installing solar cells on the schools, has already raked in $648,000 in revenue since the program began in 2011.

Chiarelli said the school rooftop projects are another sign that the renewable energy sector is "thriving."

"The cost of wind turbines and solar facilities has come down dramatically," he said, following a presentation at the Nepean school. "We need clean electricity for climate-change-related issues — that is why we got rid of coal — and to have a healthier society."

The nearly 700 solar panels installed on Mary Honeywell don't give the school a break on heating costs, but the school board does make $14,400 every year on renting out the roof — and over 20 years, the 37 schools will profit a whopping $7 million combined.

Apart from the economic boost the solar panels provide, there is the learning experience for kids at the school that makes the project a game-changer.

The students may not understand kilowatt-hours or how the unused power generated by the school is sold back to the Ontario power grid for a profit, but principal Kim Power said teachers and staff at the school have been working to simplify the technology so they can relate to it.

"I think it's great to have that connection for the kids to be connected to a great environmental project like this," said Power, adding that the school is now starting to gear learning toward sustainable energy with a focus on sustainable energy in science class.

"When they can look at the website and see what that power could be equaled to in other terms, like how far could a car drive, how much human food fuel is that or how much wood would you have to burn to produce that much energy? I think they get a feeling of what the benefits are."

When the students learned that the power generated off the roof could power 500 computers for a whole year, the entire room erupted in "whoa" and "that's so cool."

Two panel projects

French Catholic board also looking to the sun

The profits, both for the school board and the solar company, has caught the attention of the French Catholic School Board as well, as the board is now joining the Ottawa Renewable Energy Co-op to launch two new solar panel projects on two secondary schools in Ottawa.

The first will be installed on the roof of École secondaire catholique Franco-Cité and will generate 244,000 kilowatt-hours and $1.8 million in income for the board over the 20-year life of the project.

The second will be installed at Collège catholique Franco-Ouest and will produce 140,000 kilowatt-hours of green energy with $1 million of profit going to the French Catholic School Board.

The students will benefit from the added educational value through learning about renewable energy, since the solar panels will be a topic of analysis and discussion in the classroom, said Bernard Roy, director of education of the CECCE.

"As a result, we will be raising a generation of environmentally responsible citizens who will be able to contribute actively to building a fairer, greener, more united world."

The two new school solar energy projects come in addition to the 10 other schools connected to the Ontario power grid.

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Mayor doesn't find monument to victims of communism attractive

Picking his battles.
Watson won't take up the matter with feds

STEVE COLLINS
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Mayor Jim Watson added his voice Tuesday to the critics of a proposed monument to the victims of communism near the Supreme Court of Canada.

"I think it does not fit on the site, I think it takes away from the beauty of the Supreme Court building, and I think it is a blight on that particular site," he said. "It's overwhelming, it's really stark. I don't find it particularly attractive."

Supreme Court Chief Justice Beverley McLachlin also expressed concerns about the "bleakness and brutalism" of the monument's design in a letter to Public Works in September.

Watson was also sharply critical of the lack of public consultation on the monument.

"I, like a lot of other residents, am not pleased with the way this has been handled," he said. "It was just sort of thrust upon us, no consultation, and I think you're seeing an awful lot of backlash from the community as to why a monument that overwhelming is going on that particular site, which is an important site along Confederation Boulevard."

But when it comes to pressing the matter with Employment Minister Pierre Poilievre, who was handed responsibility for the National Capital Commission on Monday, Watson wants to pick his battles.

"I want to try to limit my discussions with the minister to two or three key items, transit obviously, the Ottawa River Action Plan, economic development," Watson said. "And if he asks my opinion on the site, I'll tell him what I've told you."

A drawing of the winning Team Kapusta's concept for the National Memorial to Victims of Communism which will be situated near the Supreme Court of Canada. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Planning committee OKs townhouse infill development

A design of the townhouses proposed for Clare Street and Hilson Avenue.
COURTESY FALSETTO HOMES

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New townhouses off Kirkwood Avenue passed the planning committee hurdle on Monday, despite the area councillor's attempts to deter the infill development.

A set of seven townhouse units and two semi-detached units will join the residential neighbourhood at the corner of Hilson Avenue and Clare Street, if council also approves the plan.

Falsetto Homes Inc. requested a zoning change in the single-family, low-rise neighbourhood to allow for the townhouses.

Jeff Leiper, the area councillor (Kitchissippi), called it "spot re-zoning" in an area that has no Community Design Plan (CDP) to manage growth.

He said he would prefer to see a "proactive" approach to development in his ward — where he would gather input on how the neighbourhood should look first — rather than impose developments and gather feedback.

"It doesn't need to be the big Community Design Plan process, which literally costs hundreds and hundreds and thousands of dollars," he said, noting a "visioning exercise" lead by a councillor could work.

The Falsetto Homes development does not fit in the neighbourhood, he said.

"I'm disappointed for residents," he said. "I don't like the fact that it removes front and backyards on a street that is characterized by homes that have front and back yards."

According to the planning document, the Falsetto Homes "proposed front, corner, interior, and rear yard setbacks are compatible with the existing neighbourhood patterns."

The planning committee voted 8-2 in favour.

Rideau-Rockcliffe Coun. Tobi Nussbaum was the other dissenting vote.

The city may reconsider a flat-rate fee system for providing the water service as a way to fund aging distribution, delivery and sewer infrastructure. METRO FILE

City tries to plug $22M water revenue shortfall

Budget. Staff says high-efficiency devices, low-flow toilets and a wet summer may have caused 'big hit' in 2014

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A rainy summer may be partly to blame for Ottawa's largest-ever $22-million water- and sewer-revenue shortfall last year, but city staffers are researching new funding avenues for the service.

In the 2014 budget, the city predicted about $318.5 million in revenue from water and sewer but actually pulled in about $296.7 million instead.

"We're seeing that the average consumption per household has been on a steady downward trend for at least half a dozen years," said city treasurer Marian Similuk. "We really took a big hit this last year.... That, I think, really has to do with the summer months being so wet."

However, the city is seeing lower water usage year round, which is due to more efficient appliances, low-flow toilets and shower heads, she said.

"Obviously, we have a dilemma where we encourage people to use less water, which is a good thing for the environment, but it also reduces the revenue in a system that helps us provide pipes and sewer lines," Mayor Jim Watson noted after tabling the budget last week.

That could mean the city reconsiders a flat-rate fee system for the service.

Some of Ottawa's water and sewer pipes are at least 50 years old; a water main that broke on King Edward Avenue last year was 100 years old, says Similuk.

Unless the city changes the water-service funding formula, it will resort to using more debt to pay for that aging infrastructure, she said.

Quoted

"We're seeing that the average consumption (of water) per household has been on a steady downward trend for at least half a dozen years."

City treasurer Marian Similuk

This year, the water and sewer rates increased by six per cent, which amounts to roughly $48 on an average homeowner's bill.

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One twin girl will receive part of her dad's liver, the other waits for donor

Kingston, Ont. Three-year-old Phuoc Wagner has received part of her father's liver as her sister Binh waits for a live-saving donor

A Kingston, Ont., father and one of his ailing twin daughters are out of surgery after he gave her part of his liver.

Michael Wagner's three-year-old twins — Phuoc and Binh — have Alagille syndrome, a genetic disorder that affects the liver, heart and other organs, and without a liver transplant the girls would die.

A post on the family Facebook page says Phuoc's new liver "looks great," but notes the next few days will be "critical."

Doctors decided which of the twins would receive the liver transplant after the family said it could not make the heart-wrenching decision — their story often compared to the film Sophie's Choice.

The Facebook page, which is managed by the girls' mother, Johanne Wagner, says Michael Wagner is groggy, looking good, and joked that someone had stolen a piece of his liver.

The Wagners, who have nine kids, are still waiting for a liver donor for their other daughter.

"I will be a pro at this when Binh gets her turn, hopefully soon," Johanne Wagner said in the Facebook post.

Gary Levy, who runs the liver donor program at the Toronto General Hospital, said donors can give up to 70 per cent of their liver, which will regrow to its full size, but that a living donor can only donate once.

Johanne Wagner said last week that she hadn't been tested yet because she needed to be there for the kids if something went wrong with her husband's surgery.

"She's our reserve," Michael Wagner said during a recent interview with The Canadian Press at the family's home.

"Part of it is that we knew we could only do one parent at a time and that I would have to recover before she went in."

Levy said that interest in donating a liver has jumped because of the girls' story and he hopes to find a match for Binh soon.

As of Wednesday, the hospital had received 436 applications in just a few weeks, Levy said in an interview. In the past week, he said, he's met with about a dozen candidates who want to donate their liver to one of the twin girls.

There are 227 Ontarians who need liver transplants, according to the Trillium Gift of Life Network. Last year, 84 people who needed livers died before getting one. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Quoted

"I will be a pro at this when Binh gets her turn, hopefully soon."

Johanne Wagner, the twins' mother, in a Facebook post.

Binh, left, and Phuoc Wagner are shown in an undated handout photo. An Ontario father is underwent an operation yesterday to give part of his liver to one of his twin daughters. Michael Wagner donated his liver to Phuoc, 3, according to the family's Facebook page set up for the girls. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Aboriginal children receive poorer health services as governments shuffle files: Report

Jeremy Meawasige is seen sitting with his mother Maurina Beadle at home in Pictou Landing First Nation in Nova Scotia in July 2011. Meawasige's family had to battle for years with the federal government to get funding for his care. ANDREW VAUGHAN/THE CANADIAN PRESS

A study suggests aboriginal children often get poorer health care than other kids while governments argue over who pays the bill.

Study co-author Vandna Sinha, a professor at McGill University, says the problem persists despite the federal government's position that there are no violations of the so-called Jordan's Principle.

"You get children and First Nations families caught in the middle," she said.

Jordan's Principle holds that no aboriginal child should suffer denials, delays or disruptions of health services available to other children due to jurisdictional disputes. Jordan Anderson was a Cree boy from Norway House, Man., who died in hospital in 2005 after such disagreements kept him from spending his last years in home care.

"Just provide (the service), whether you're federal or provincial or whichever department, and sort it out afterwards," said David Morley, president of UNICEF Canada, which helped fund the study. "It seems that the bureaucratic mechanisms have been getting in the way of that simple, quick response."

As part of the study, 25 frontline workers in children's services were interviewed.

"All of them were able to point to differences in the process for accessing services for First Nations children and other children," Sinha said.

Statistics on the number of occurrences proved impossible to develop, she said.

The report details stories of how First Nations children suffered while governments shuffled files.

Parents have been denied support even when their children require 24-hour care. An infant who wouldn't breastfeed and was allergic to normal formula couldn't get Health Canada to cover the non-allergenic type.

Federal and provincial governments bickered over the cost of a special crib for a baby with neurological disorders. A child with permanent hearing loss couldn't get a hearing aid because the province wouldn't pay for a service delivered on a reserve.

One band had to conduct community fundraising for a wheelchair for a paraplegic child because it felt it couldn't wait to go through Health Canada's three levels of review. Another band was in a three-year legal fight to get federal funding for a single mother to get help for her dependent son after she had a stroke.

A spokeswoman for Indian Affairs said the government has agreements to implement Jordan's principle with Manitoba, Saskatchewan, British Columbia and New Brunswick.

"There are currently no outstanding jurisdictional disputes involving Jordan's principle in Canada," Emily Hillstrom said in an emailed statement.

Sinha said her research examined federal documents that show Ottawa defines the problem so narrowly it simply disappears. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Singer-songwriter Scott Helman will take the stage at the TD Ottawa Winter Jazz Festival on Valentine's Day.
COURTESY WARNER MUSIC CANADA

Love and heartbreak, just in time for Feb. 14

Jazzfest. Valentine's performer Scott Helman an emerging talent

JOE LOFARO
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When Scott Helman comes to Ottawa on Valentine's Day during the TD Ottawa Winter Jazz Festival, he will serenade the crowd with a break-up song.

With lyrics like, "The sun comes up, I'm doing OK, I don't need your heart to show me the way," the 19-year-old singer-songwriter from Toronto wrote the first song for his debut album, Augusta, which was released last October under the Warner Music Canada label.

"It was more exciting for me writing it than emotionally hard," Helman told Metro on Tuesday by phone from Toronto.

After going through a break-up, he wanted to write a song about the turning point he experienced when he realized he didn't want "to feel like crap anymore."

"To be able to write a song about it and relay that emotion into a piece of art was really exciting for me," he said.

Balancing out the album is Bungalow, a love song about no one in particular, he admitted. But he said it was a way to daydream about being in love with a girl. He said writing it helped him get through a rough patch in his life.

"I wrote it therapeutically for myself and I'm just glad that it helps other people daydream or think about it," he said.

The young talent has a mature singing voice that is both powerful and tender. His YouTube page is filled with videos of him singing acoustic versions of his songs with a guitar in hand.

Augusta was the culmination of nearly four years of meetings with Warner Music.

The label first met with him at age 15. At the time, his manager introduced some of Helman's earlier songs to the label's vice-president, Ron Lopata.

"It just sorta happened," Helman said humbly.

On Feb. 14, he will perform at the Dominion Chalmers United Church at 5:45 p.m. Later that evening, he will join Jay Malinowski & the Deadcoast, Reuben and the Dark, and Martha Wainwright, who will each perform three songs in a musical tribute to Canadian singing legend Leonard Cohen.

For more information about the festival, visit ottawajazzfestival.com.

Follow Joe Lofaro on Twitter @giuseppelo

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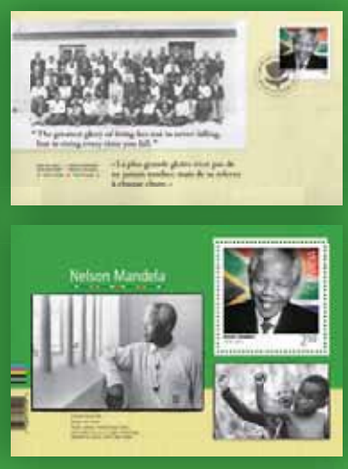

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A weighty reason why Ontario has foreign-owned Beer Store

Quasi-monopoly. End of Prohibition gave Beer Store privileged position that leaves local, craft breweries with limited options

JESSICA SMITH CROSS
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Ontario ended up with a foreign-owned quasi-monopoly in charge of our beer sales in part because of one very basic fact: Beer is heavy.

Last week, Torstar News Service reported that the private owners of Ontario's sole beer distributor have threatened legal action or NAFTA trade complaints if the province goes ahead with attempts to loosen the Beer Store's grip on our cold brews.

How the Beer Store has come to enjoy such a privileged position (granted under the LCBO's authority) has left many critics and beer enthusiasts scratching their heads.

And the answer takes us back to 1927 with the end of Prohibition in Ontario.

The Beer Store began in 1927 with 16 brewers each selling a few products. Today in Ontario, between big brewers and craft breweries, there are roughly 2,000 products on the market every year, says beer historian Jordan St. John. STEVE RUSSELL/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE FILE

Birth of a heavyweight

At the time, the government of the day wanted a system for legally selling intoxicating drinks, so it set up the Liquor Control Board of Ontario to handle spirits and wine. But the government didn't want to deal with beer, primarily because, as one expert says, it's heavy and difficult to store.

So the government turned to the few Canadian brewers that had survived the dry period — mainly by legally exporting beer to the U.S., despite it also being illegal to drink there — to set up their own distribution network.

"The intent, originally, was that it should be a co-operative, that every player in the industry should have a part of it. That was a reasonable expectation in the 1920s when there were only about 16 breweries left," says Jordan St. John, a beer writer and historian.

The brewers named it the Brewers' Warehousing Company. At the time it was only a distribution network, warehousing beer and providing it to licensed "mom and pop" stores, says St. John.

Meanwhile, the consolidation of the beer market began. In the 1930s, according to St. John, Edward Plunkett Taylor, an Ottawa tycoon and racing enthusiast, began buying up small breweries that had suffered during Prohibition under his company, Carling O'Keefe.

"They weren't really profitable. So what he did was consolidate everything under a single brand," he says, noting he did this over the course of two decades.

The move led to Ontario being home to only three big brewers: Molson, Labatt and Carling O'Keefe.

The co-op, owned by the Big Three, then bought up the independent beer stores and began selling beer on its own, changing its name to Brewers Retail, which still owns the Beer Store today.

"By 1959, there was an anti-trust competition lawsuit suggesting it was a monopoly," he says. "But it was thrown out of court with the argument that three companies are enough to keep (each other) honest."

But, with only three major Canadian brewers, the number of products available declined.

"Labatt Blue becomes a huge thing in the '50s and '60s. Molson Canadian is purpose-built to capture the national market," St. John says. "Ontario is really a lucrative market if you've got control of the distribution, controlling the retail stores where you can buy the product, and you've got enough advertising product to make people think they actually want the thing."

In 1978, the country reached a high point of beer consumption at 102 litres per person, says St. John.

Ownership moves overseas

Over the following years, ownership of the major companies shifted overseas: Labatt was bought by Belgian Interbrew in 1995 and is now part of Anheuser-Busch InBev. E.P. Taylor's Carling O'Keefe was sold to an Australian company before it was bought by Molson in 1989, and Molson merged with American-based Coors in 2005. In 1988, Sleeman's restarted after a half-century hiatus, became a major Canadian player in the beer market and was bought by Japan's Sapporo in 2006.

It was at this time Canadians' taste for beer began to change. Craft breweries started popping up in the mid '80s. They died down in the mid '90s, then saw a resurgence in the mid '00s that continues today.

Meanwhile, overall beer consumption dropped to about 64 litres per person per year, says St. John.

"People aren't buying cases of a single product, they're not buying Molson Canadian or Labatt Blue. They're buying maybe two cans of this indie craft brewery and maybe one from over here," he says.

There are about 165 craft breweries operating in Ontario and another 160 in planning stages, he said.

Suds of change

St. John says the Beer Store is now facing strong opposition,. The big brewers are selling relatively less — but small, local brewers are collectively selling more and creating jobs in small Ontario towns.

Many small brewers have complained about the difficulty they have getting their products in the Beer Store. Early this year, the Beer Store responded by announcing it would allow smaller brewers to have shares in the Beer Store and seats on its board.

But some, like St. John, believe that's not enough.

"It was designed to work in a different era," he says, noting in 1927 there were 16 breweries with about three or four products each. Today, there are roughly 2,000 products every year. "It's an anachronistic model that time has eclipsed."

The Beer Store only sells beer from brewers who can afford to meet its criteria, he says, whereas typical retail stores and beer stores in other jurisdictions choose products for quality that help build their reputation.

"But if you have a monopoly you don't have to do that. It's holding us back. It holds us back as an economic power in Ontario, it hold holds us back in terms of quality of product available to consumers."

How other provinces handle beer sales:

- **Manitoba.** Beer (and some wine) is sold at Manitoba Liquor Control Commission stores and private vendors licensed by the province. Spirits are sold solely through the MLCC.
- **B.C.** In B.C., alcohol is sold at private liquor stores and public B.C. Liquor Stores. It will be allowed in outlets within supermarkets after April 1.
- **Newfoundland and Labrador.** The Newfoundland and Labrador Liquor Corporation is responsible for managing distribution of alcohol, and permits corner stores to sell beer.
- **Alberta.** The privatization of all government liquor stores was completed in 1994. They are overseen by the Alberta Gaming and Liquor Corporation.

The cost of selling beer

To get into the Beer Store, outside brewers have to pay "listing fees."

- **$120,000.** The cost a non-owner brewery pays to sell a lager, an ale and a light beer, each in a six-pack and 12-pack format, in the majority of the Beer Store locations, according to a convenience store lobby group.
- **Changes.** In January, the Beer Store announced that small Ontario-based brewers who sell fewer than one million litres a year pay no listing fee when stocking two products at the five locations nearest to their brewery. Small brewers can list the same two products at any additional Beer Store at reduced fees. And brewers can swap a new or existing brand and replace it with a seasonal brand twice a year at no additional cost.

Fahmy. Harper reached out to Egypt's president: PMO

Prime Minister Stephen Harper has personally reached out to Egypt's president to secure the release of a Canadian journalist imprisoned in Cairo.

Harper's office won't say exactly when the overture between the prime minister and Egyptian President Abdel-Fattah el-Sissi took place.

"The Prime Minister has communicated with the president on this case. I'm not going to get into the specifics of the communication between the PM and the president, including the timing or details of that communication," Harper's spokesman Jason MacDonald said in an email.

Opposition Leader Tom Mulcair has called on Harper to "personally" reach out to his Egyptian counterpart to secure the release.

Mohamed Fahmy was working for satellite news broadcaster Al Jazeera English when he was arrested in December 2013, along with two colleagues. They were accused of supporting the banned Islamist Muslim Brotherhood group of ousted Egyptian president Mohammed Morsi and were charged with fabricating footage to undermine Egypt's national security.

After a trial that was internationally denounced as a sham, Fahmy was sentenced to seven years in prison. Following an appeal in January, a retrial is set to begin on Thursday. THE CANADIAN PRESS

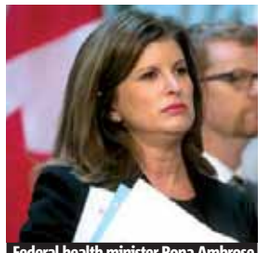
Health. Not vaccinating is 'irresponsible': Ambrose

The federal health minister says she can't help but get emotional over some parents' decision not to get their children vaccinated against infectious diseases.

"I find it really irresponsible," Rona Ambrose said Tuesday, adding that anyone who still believes a debunked and fraudulent 1990s study linking vaccines to autism should speak to their doctor.

Ambrose said measles in particular is an incredibly infectious disease and parents who refuse to get their kids immunized are putting other children at risk.

"If you don't immunize your child and you send them to school potentially ill or exposed, another child who may be more vulnerable than your own is at even a greater risk, and that's what concerns me the most," she told an unrelated news conference.



Federal health minister Rona Ambrose THE CANADIAN PRESS

She called vaccines miracles of modern medicine that save lives. Ambrose said Canada spends billions of dollars on vaccines for children around the world, but educated Canadians who won't allow their kids to be immunized through a publicly funded program are making the wrong decision. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Arctic

DND concerned over spy drones

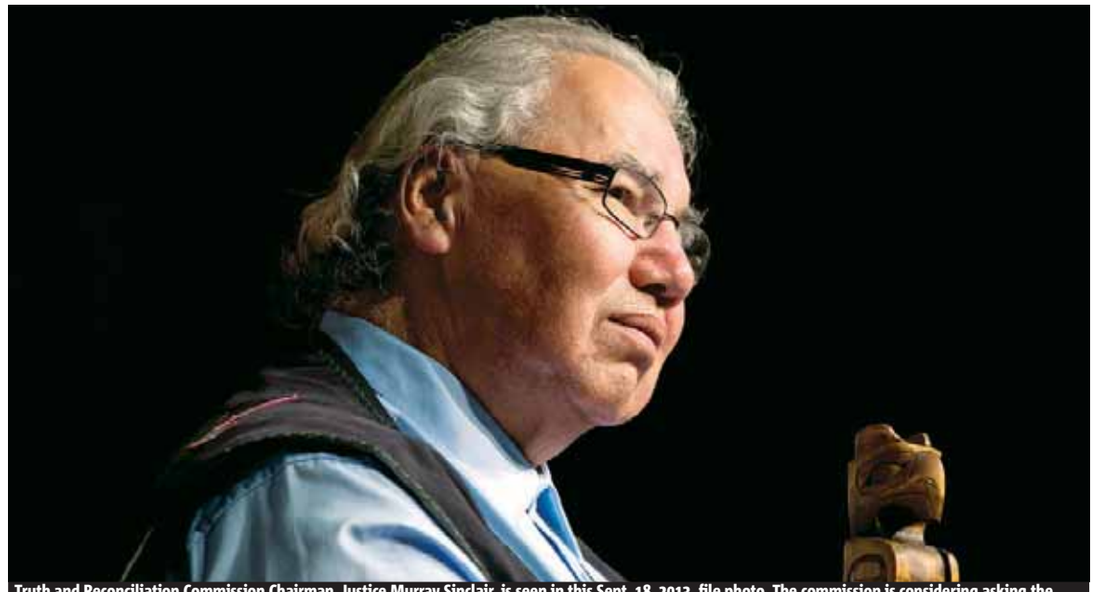
The country's chief of defence intelligence has taken an in-depth look at how Russia, or even China, could use drones to spy in Canada's Arctic in a wide-ranging report that was quietly flagged to some of the country's closest allies.

The report, obtained under access-to-information legislation, comes as Russia moves troops into a northern base near the Finnish border as part of an extensive military buildup. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Doctor-assisted suicide

Notwithstanding clause will not be used: MacKay

Federal Justice Minister Peter MacKay said that the use of the notwithstanding clause in response to last week's Supreme Court of Canada ruling on doctor-assisted suicide is not being considered. The court struck down the criminal ban on doctors assisting in the deaths of mentally competent but suffering patients. It gave the government 12 months to draft a replacement law. THE CANADIAN PRESS



Truth and Reconciliation Commission Chairman, Justice Murray Sinclair, is seen in this Sept. 18, 2013, file photo. The commission is considering asking the Vatican to repeal Papal Bulls of Discovery that set the stage for conquering the New World and its aboriginals. DARRYL DYCK/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Vatican may be asked to repeal old Papal edicts

Human rights. Many say Catholic decrees of 1455 and 1493 allowed for the ill treatment of aboriginal peoples

Canada's Truth and Reconciliation Commission is weighing whether to ask the Vatican to repeal the Papal Bulls of Discovery that granted 15th-century explorers the right to conquer the New World and the "heathen" aboriginals.

Chair Murray Sinclair says the commission examining the impact of Canada's Indian residential schools is looking carefully at the 1455 and 1493 Catholic edicts as part of its final report.

Many argue the proclamations legitimized the treatment of aboriginal people as "less than human."

Crown sovereignty in Canada can be traced back to those papal bulls, and neither Canada nor the United States has repudiated them, Sinclair said.

A growing chorus in Canada is calling on the Vatican to help begin a new relationship with aboriginal people on equal footing. The discovery bulls, and others in the same vein that followed, gave Catholic explorers "full and free power, authority and jurisdiction of every kind" and outlined their "duty to lead the peoples dwelling in those islands and countries to embrace the Christian religion."

If aboriginal people refused, the Vatican granted its envoys the authority to enslave and kill.

If the commission recommends the bulls be rescinded, Sinclair said, it has to weigh the legal implications, which could strike at the core of Crown sovereignty over land.

"What would be the basis for rationalizing Crown sovereignty if the Doctrine of Discovery is no longer available?" Sinclair said. "We have to consider that question and perhaps give some direction about how that relationship can be re-established in a proper way … on a nation-to-nation level."

The Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops declined to comment on rescinding the bulls but pointed to the Vatican's written response to the UN in 2010. The church said the bulls didn't need to be revoked officially because they've already been nullified by more recent edicts.

For advocates like Keith Matthew, former chief of Simpcw First Nation in British Columbia, a revocation of the edicts is about hitting the "reset button,"

"The papal bulls put us in a position no better than animals," he said. "We're just as civilized and human as anyone else in this world. It's really about righting a historic wrong.

"I'm no animal. I'm a person, a human being," he said. THE CANADIAN PRESS

United Nations

The United Nations appointed a special rapporteur in 2009 who found the bulls lie "at the root of the violations of indigenous peoples' human rights."

- The edicts have resulted in the "mass appropriation of the lands, territories and resources of indigenous peoples," the UN found.
- The edicts also form the legal basis of many modern-day land-claim disputes, the UN said.

AFN chief sets high hopes for meeting on missing women

Assembly of First Nations Chief Perry Bellegarde TEH CANADIAN PRESS

It may not be the full-blown inquiry he would like, but the new national chief of the Assembly of First Nations says he still has high hopes for what is sure to be an emotionally wrought meeting later this month on murdered and missing aboriginal women.

Among the items on Perry Bellegarde's wish list: more federal and provincial money for housing, safe shelters, day care and wellness centres; more programs to prevent violence; and greater co-ordination among the country's various police forces when it comes to investigating cases that involve aboriginal women. Above all, Bellegarde hopes the two Conservative ministers in attendance — Status of Women Minister Kellie Leitch and Aboriginal Affairs Minister Bernard Valcourt — will share what they hear at the Feb. 27 event with their cabinet colleagues.

"We welcome their support. We welcome their attendance. We had hoped that they would take things back to their cabinet colleagues, that the dialogue and the discussions and recommendations from around the table for the ongoing support for this inquiry, or for an action plan," Bellegarde said. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Malaysia

Opposition leader begins jail term

Malaysian opposition leader Anwar Ibrahim began a 5-year prison sentence on Tuesday after a court rejected his final appeal against a sodomy conviction, a decision he called a "murder of judicial independence" and human rights groups condemned as unjust.

The case was widely seen at home and abroad as politically motivated to eliminate any threats to the ruling coalition, whose popularity has slowly been eroding since 2008. Anwar is a popular, vocal and visible symbol of the opposition's resurgence. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Argentina

Police find another person's DNA at lawyer crime scene

Argentine investigators said Tuesday they have found a second person's DNA in the apartment where prosecutor Alberto Nisman was found dead and have called in a witness to check for a match.

Nisman's mysterious death came days after he presented a report alleging that President Cristina Fernandez had conspired to protect Iranian officials implicated in the 1994 bombing of a Jewish community centre in which 85 people died. Fernandez and Iran have denied the allegations. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Exploration

SpaceX delays observatory launch

Dangerously high wind is keeping a deep-space observatory grounded for yet another day.

SpaceX called off Tuesday evening's planned launch of the Deep Space Climate Observatory with just 12 minutes remaining in the countdown. Wind gusts reached 115 mph several miles up, a safety concern.

It was the company's second attempt in three days to launch the spacecraft first envisioned by former vice-president Al Gore. SpaceX must launch the observatory by Wednesday or face a delay until Feb. 20. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Fighting picks up ahead of peace talks

Ukraine. Latest escalation of violence leaves 12 dead and 64 wounded as European leaders prepare to meet with Russia today

Fighting intensified Tuesday in eastern Ukraine ahead of crucial peace talks set for Wednesday, with both sides claiming significant advances. The government accused the Russian-backed rebels of shelling a town far behind the front lines, killing 12 people and left scores wounded.

The fighting, which the UN says has killed more than 5,300 people since April, comes ahead of a summit planned for Wednesday in Minsk involving the leaders of France, Germany, Russia and Ukraine.

Ukrainian President Petro Poroshenko said the talks were "one of the last" opportunities for ending the fighting.

"Tomorrow's meeting in Minsk offers one of the last chances to declare an unconditional cease-fire and pull back heavy artillery," Poroshenko said Tuesday.

On Monday Germany Chancellor Angela Merkel met with U.S. President Barack Obama and Canadian Prime Minister Stephen Harper to secure support for a peaceful resolution. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Diplomatic relations

Merkel has been vocal about reaching a peaceful solution between Russia and Ukraine, but the West appears less married to diplomacy as the sole road toward peace.

- **Arming Ukraine.** Despite meeting with Merkel, U.S. President Obama is undecided whether the U.S. will move to arm Ukraine with lethal defensive weapons should talks prove fruitless.
- **Russia responds.** The Kremlin has warned the West against sending weapons or pressuring Russia, which it says could destabilize the situation.

U.S. aid worker held by ISIL confirmed dead by her captors

Turi Whiting of Minneapolis leaves a bouquet of flowers at a "Pray for Kayla" sign in downtown Prescott, Ariz. on Monday. Kayla Mueller, a 26-year-old American woman held by militants from the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL), has been confirmed dead, her parents and the Obama administration said Tuesday. The White House said Mueller's family received a private message from her captors over the weekend, information that has been authenticated by U.S. intelligence. On Friday ISIL claimed Mueller had been killed during a Jordanian airstrike, a claim immediately denied by Jordan. The Pentagon has confirmed she did not die in one of the strikes and was killed by ISIL. ROB SCHUMACHER/THE ARIZONA REPUBLIC/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

ISIL. Over 20K foreigners joining radicals: Officials

Foreign fighters are streaming into Syria and Iraq in unprecedented numbers to join the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) or other extremist groups. At least 3,400 are from Western nations with 20,000 from around the world, U.S. intelligence officials say in an updated estimate.

Intelligence agencies now believe that as many as 150 Americans have tried and some have succeeded in reaching in the Syrian war zone. Some of those Americans were arrested en route, some died in the area and a small number are still fighting with extremists. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Nigeria. Boko Haram kill seven, abduct 30 in hijacks

Nigeria's Boko Haram Islamic extremists have abducted about 30 people including eight Cameroonian girls and killed seven hostages in two bus hijacks in Cameroon and Nigeria, according to Cameroon residents and a Nigerian intelligence officer Tuesday.

The bus attack took place Sunday about 18 kilometres from Cameroon's border with Nigeria. Seven other hostages were slain and their bodies scattered near the border, said Chetima Ahmidou, the principal of a school in the area. The girls range in age from 11 to 14 and come from the town of Koza, he said. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Alabama officials voice opposition to gay marriage ruling

While Ernesto Mena was the sole protester outside Mobile County Probate court Monday, judge Don Davis refused to issue same-sex marriage licenses to the dozens gathered inside the courthouse. SHARON STEINMANN/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Gay marriage has come only to parts of Alabama after the state's chief justice sought to put the weddings on hold in defiance of a federal court order, echoing familiar refrains of resistance in the U.S. South to the involvement of federal courts.

The uneven marriage landscape left one thing certain Tuesday: The legal manoeuvring over gay marriage would continue in one of the country's most conservative states. It was a reflection of how deeply divided parts of the U.S. remain over the social issue, even as the legal tide has swung sharply in favour of gay marriage.

A federal judge's ruling went into effect Monday overturning Alabama's ban on gay marriage after the U.S. Supreme Court refused the state's request to stop the marriages.

But Alabama Chief Justice Roy Moore directed probate judges to refuse the licenses and resist what he called an "illegal" intrusion by the federal court.

In another dissenting opinion, Justice Clarence Thomas criticized the Supreme Court's order on Alabama, saying his colleagues were inappropriately signalling they intend to clear the way for gay marriage across the nation.

More Alabama courthouses allowed same-sex marriage Tuesday but other counties still refused, prompting a new round of federal court action.

So far, couples can marry in at least 10 of the state's 67 counties.

With the Alabama ruling, gay marriage remains banned in only 13 of the 50 U.S. states. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

U.S. Supreme Court ruling

The top U.S. court is expected to rule later this year whether same-sex couples have a right to marry anywhere in the U.S.

- **Firmly opposed.** In addition to Moore, Alabama Gov. Robert Bentley said he believes in traditional marriage, but that the issue should be resolved through legal channels.

Mandela freed 25 years ago

A statue of former South African President Nelson Mandela stands outside the former Victor Verster prison, renamed to Drakenstein Correctional Center, near the town of Franschhoek, South Africa. On Feb. 11, 1990, Mandela walked free from the prison with his fist raised in the air after being jailed for 27 years. Tomorrow marks the 25th anniversary of his release. SCHALK VAN ZUYDAM/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Ex-IMF boss thought women were 'friends'

Strauss-Kahn trial. 'DSK' maintains he didn't know women in his orgies were prostitutes; details were kept from him, say two co-defendants

Disgraced former International Monetary Fund (IMF) boss Dominique Strauss-Kahn told a French court Tuesday that he was unaware that women who participated in orgies at luxury hotels in Paris and Washington D.C. were prostitutes.

The 65-year-old and 13 co-defendants are on trial accused of aggravated pimping in connection with a sex ring centred on the Hotel Carlton in Lille, France.

In his first testimony since the trial began Feb. 2, Strauss-Kahn reaffirmed his long-standing defence that he did not know of the "prostitutional character" of the women who took part in his orgies.

Strauss-Kahn's arrival at the courthouse in Lille was disrupted by three topless protesters from the provocative group Femen, who were detained by police.

The economist, known widely as DSK, faces up to 10 years in prison and a $1.7-million US fine if convicted.

Strauss-Kahn and the 13 other defendants are accused of operating a prostitution ring out of luxury hotels in Paris, Washington D.C., Lille and Brussels.

"I had a very hectic life, with just a few outlets for recreation, and these sessions were part of that," Strauss-Kahn told the court.

Adding that he believed the women to be "a group of friends," Strauss-Kahn said that if he'd known they were prostitutes "I would have totally stopped participating in these soirees."

Two of Strauss-Kahn's co-defendants also testified Tuesday that they'd kept hidden from Strauss-Kahn the fact that they'd hired prostitutes for the orgies.

Prostitutes questioned in the case have said that between 2009 and 2011 — when the IMF chief was dealing with a global financial crisis — Strauss-Kahn organized orgies at luxury hotels in Paris, at a restaurant in the French capital and in Washington D.C. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Clinic must pay girls switched at birth

A court on Tuesday ordered a private clinic in the Riviera city of Cannes to pay out 400,000 euros ($450,000 US) each to two 20-year-old girls accidentally switched at birth and given to the wrong parents — part of a 1.88-million euro payment to members of the two families.

The clinic's lawyer, Sophie Chas, said she wasn't immediately certain whether an appeal would be lodged against Tuesday's decision in Grasse.

Chas said the court ordered payments by the Clinica Jourdan and an insurance company of 300,000 euros for each of three parents involved in the case and 60,000 euros for three brothers and sisters.

"I am perfectly satisfied (with the ruling) because responsibility within the medical chain was acknowledged," the lawyer for the victims, Gilbert Collard, said in a telephone interview. The families had sought a total of 12 million euros but had little hope of obtaining that amount, he said.

A nurse's assistant accidentally gave baby Manon Serrano, who was in an incubator, to another mother after her birth in July 1994 and gave the infant next to her to Sophie Serrano.

Three years later, Manon's hair grew curly and her skin olive-toned — unlike either parent. Her father separated from Sophie Serrano after village rumours spread about the young girl being "the postman's daughter." In 2004, DNA tests showed that Manon was the daughter of neither of them.

The other family involved in the case has chosen to remain anonymous. The suit brought in 2010 by the two families also targeted two doctors and the nurse's assistant who made the mistaken switch, but the court did not convict them. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Cyberattacks. Hackers can't be kept out: Experts

As hackers routinely overwhelm computer defences, experts say cybersecurity is beyond due for an overhaul.

Their message: neutralize attackers once they're inside networks rather than fixating on trying to keep them out.

According to U.S. cybersecurity company FireEye, 229 days is the median length of time attackers lurk inside their victim's computers before being detected or revealing themselves, underscoring the weakness of conventional tools in identifying intruders.

Experts aren't recommending organizations stop deploying perimeter defences such as antivirus software or firewalls. But they say a strategy that could be likened to laying traps is needed to counter the sophisticated hacks.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Newsweek Twitter hack

The Newsweek Twitter feed was briefly hacked Tuesday, purportedly by the Cyber Caliphate, a hacker group affiliated with ISIL.

- The posts included a message targeting U.S. President Barack Obama, his wife Michelle and their daughters.

Market Minute

DOLLAR 79.53¢ (-0.69¢)

TSX 15,112.52 (+11.82)

OIL $50.02 US (-$2.84)

GOLD $1,232.20 US (-$9.30)

Natural gas: $2.677 (+8.0¢)
Dow Jones: 17,868.76 (+139.55)

Robots will cut labour costs in Canada 24%, report says

Growth. Robot usage forecast to rise 10% a year in the world's 25 biggest exporting countries, up from the current 2-3%

Robots install rivets on a 2015 Ford F-150 truck at the Dearborn Truck Plant in Michigan. Cheaper, better robots will replace human workers in factories at a faster pace over the next decade, pushing manufacturing labour costs down 16 per cent, a report from the Boston Consulting Group said Tuesday. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS FILE

Cheaper, better robots are expected to cut labour costs at Canadian factories by 24 per cent over the next decade as more companies replace human workers at a faster pace, according to a report issued Tuesday.

Globally, labour savings are expected to be reduced by some 16 per cent by 2025, the report by the Boston Consulting Group predicts.

Robots are getting cheaper. The cost of owning and operating a robotic spot welder, for instance, has tumbled from $182,000 in 2005 to $133,000 last year and will drop to $103,000 by 2025, Boston Consulting says.

And the new machines can do more things. Old robots could only operate in predictable environments. The newer ones use improved sensors to react to the unexpected.

Robots will cut labour costs by 33 per cent in South Korea, 25 per cent in Japan and 22 per cent in the United States and Taiwan. Only 10 per cent of jobs that can be automated have already been taken by robots. By 2025, the machines will have more than 23 per cent, Boston Consulting forecasts.

In a separate report, RBC Global Asset Management notes that robots can be reprogrammed far faster and more efficiently than humans can be retrained when products are updated or replaced — a crucial advantage at a time when smartphones and other products quickly fade into obsolescence.

The rise of robots won't be limited to developed countries with their aging, high-cost workforces. Even low-wage China will use robots to slash labour costs by 18 per cent, Boston consulting predicts.

Increasing automation is likely to change the way companies evaluate where to open and expand factories. Boston Consulting expects that manufacturers will "no longer simply chase cheap labour." Factories will employ fewer people, and those that remain are more likely to be highly skilled. That could lure more manufacturers back to Canada and the United States from lower-wage emerging market countries.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS, WITH FILES FROM THE CANADIAN PRESS

Robot gets artificial intelligence

Japanese mobile carrier Softbank said Tuesday it will incorporate artificial-intelligence technology from IBM into its empathetic robot Pepper that goes on sale in Japan this month.

The AI engine Watson is already used in health care, travel and insurance services in English, but an adaptation was needed to make it work and think in Japanese, said Steve Gold, vice-president of the IBM Watson Group. Unlike other cognitive technology that responds rather mechanically, Watson can learn over time like a human brain and understands the concept of probability, which makes it very sophisticated and more human-like, according to IBM.

Humanoid robot Pepper is on display at SoftBank mobile shop in Tokyo. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS FILE

Watson will be used in Pepper, Softbank's empathetic robot going on sale in Japan this month for 198,000 yen (about $2,000) and will make for a smarter, more charming companion, he said.

Pepper has a stunned face, a bit like C3PO in Star Wars, and moves around on wheels. In early demonstrations, it was a bit mechanical in its responses. Gold said Watson will change that.

A call centre using Watson will get the caller to the right solution more quickly and make for a less frustrating consumer experience, he said.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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VOICES

VACCINES FOR KIDS SHOULD BE MANDATORY

KRISTEN THOMPSON
readers@metronews.ca

Ready for your daily dose of controversy? I believe strongly in childhood vaccinations. Wait, I'm not done. I believe they should be mandatory.

I can feel thousands of readers bristling right now. This is a sensitive topic because most of us love our children, and most of us want what is best for them. But that doesn't mean we are always acting in their best interest. And that's when the government should step in.

Here's why: We need a 95 per cent vaccination rate for herd immunity to protect against contagious diseases, and according to UNICEF, Canada's rate hovers around 84 per cent. So until we raise the immunization rates, we are all at risk.

If you think the government has no right to meddle in how we care for our children, you're wrong. It meddles every day, and rightly so.

It intervenes when children are raised in filthy homes, allowed to ride in cars without seatbelts, left unattended at home, or refused life-saving medical treatment. Religion, culture and ideology do not trump these laws.

Why is it different when parents say "no" to childhood vaccines?

Maybe because it was less of an issue a decade ago. Vaccination rates are declining, according to the U.S. Center for Disease Control, due in part to a growing culture of distrust in big pharma and regulatory agencies. What this means is we need better education campaigns and more transparency into vaccine safety and oversight.

The reality is we've been inoculating against deadly diseases for more than 200 years, and the science is well-established: Vaccines are safe and a crucial component of childhood and community health. Ingredients undergo rigorous testing and serious reactions — which are incredibly rare — are highly monitored.

The diseases we vaccinate against can be fatal — they kill hundreds of thousands of children in developing countries every year. And they can return when vaccination rates decline. That means the benefits of vaccines by far outweigh the risks.

So why do we allow parents to gamble with kids' lives — their own kids, or the lives of newborns and other peoples' children who can't be immunized for health reasons — by refusing vaccinations? Especially when the science is so clear, and the dangers so terrible?

The diseases we vaccinate against kill hundreds of thousands of children in developing countries every year. GETTY IMAGES

This is not a debate about individual rights versus public health, because kids are not extensions of us — they are individuals with their own rights.

The debate is where to draw the line when it comes to parental freedom of choice.

Parenthood, in the wise words of my father, is not a right but a privilege, and that's an important distinction. It's not our "right" to make any choice we want for our kids, it's our duty to make wise ones, ones that set them on the best path.

That's why when a parent makes a choice on behalf of the child that puts that child or others at serious risk, regardless of their intentions, society should step in.

Is this dangerous government overreach? Slovenia and Croatia don't think so. Both countries have made vaccinations mandatory for nine specific diseases.

Croatia's Constitutional Court said it best when it ruled "the child's right to health is more than the rights of parents to the (wrong) choice."

That country's decision to overrule parental freedom for the sake of community well-being means that diphtheria, whooping cough and measles have been eradicated there.

In fact, 14 European countries have at least one mandatory vaccination included in their program.

So what would happen if Canada also imposed mandatory vaccinations? Many parents would be up in arms. But ... so what?

We live in a highly relativistic society and tend to wring our hands endlessly over respect for other people's points of view, even when those views are contrarian. But when people choose to reject clear scientific evidence in favour of their own misguided beliefs, the hand-wringing should stop.

Especially when the well-being of children is involved.

3-DNA-sourced babies

'There is a line and we're crossing it. I think we can cross it if we are extremely cautious': Bioethicist

With the three-parent IVF technique recently getting the green light in the U.K., debate is brewing in Canada about the controversial procedure.

While it is currently illegal in Canada under the Assisted Human Reproduction Act of 2004, proponents say it would allow couples to have healthy children in cases where the mother might otherwise pass on mitochondrial disease. Moreover, these children would be almost entirely genetically their own offspring.

Metro asked Kerry Bowman, a bioethicist with the University of Toronto, for his take. The following has been edited down from a longer interview:

You've said before that you give the technique cautious approval. Why?
Approval is a bit strong. I get it with three-person reproduction and why you would want to do this. By doing so you can hopefully prevent the suffering and early death of babies and young children. There's something called mitochondrial disease and if you do this technique, hopefully — if it goes well — you could avoid that. But we are crossing a line. Some people say what we are really doing is genetically altering an unborn child. We're actually changing what's called the human germ line. And some people say, 'Well, what does that matter?' But when people are looking at their identity, they're studying their ancestry and who we are as people, our geographical origins from an evolutionary point of view, migration point of view — that's all traced through mitochondrial DNA. Identity isn't necessarily about percentages; it's about what your story is.

Is three-parent IVF a fair term?

"Some people would say it is an overly dramatic term and it's inaccurate, because there's really two genetic parents. I don't really agree with that, because the child wouldn't be born if you didn't have the third input from the third parent, so I think it is actually an accurate use of language."
Kerry Bowman, bioethicist

So you're saying this is significantly different from other reproductive assistance technologies? Yes, this is the first time it would be inheritable, passed down from generation to generation. So there are a lot of things to consider. What are the risks? Unknown. There are no foreseeable risks but that doesn't mean no risks will occur.

What other applications could this type of technology have? We don't have the capacity yet, but this is the type of technique that could be used to genetically enhance unborn babies, so designer, babies, essentially. I don't think that would be the right thing to do. But I think with mitochondrial DNA, the biggest thing is that there is a line and we're crossing it. I think we can cross it if we are extremely cautious.

What specific policies would you suggest we adopt then? I fully acknowledge that right now it is illegal, but a lot has changed since 2004. A lot. So I think you would need to go case by case, and the only cases that would be allowed — if it were going to be allowed — would be for cases of mitochondrial disease. And I think it would be wise to wait to see what happens in Britain.

A simplified explanation:

The technique takes the nucleus of a mother's egg and places it in a donor's egg, from which the nucleus has been removed. This new egg contains the donor's mitochondria (but not the mother's). It is then fertilized with the father's sperm.

- **In this way, the child inherits the vast majority of its DNA from the mother and father, but inherits the mitochondrial DNA from the donor mother.**

INTERVIEWED BY EMINA GAMULIN/METRO

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Gossip

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METRO'S TAKE ON THE WORLD OF CELEBRITIES

Jon Stewart GETTY IMAGES

Stewart writes his Dear Jon letter to Comedy Central

Jon Stewart will be leaving The Daily Show after nearly 17 years, he announced to the audience of Tuesday night's episode. The comedian, writer and director took over in 1999 from Craig Kilborn, slowly turning the fledgling newscast spoof into a cultural and political force, taking politicians on both sides of the aisle, the media and even himself to task for any misstep, while also launching the careers of Stephen Colbert, Steve Carell and John Oliver.

"For the better part of the last two decades, I have had the incredible honour and privilege of working with Jon Stewart. His comedic brilliance is second to none," Comedy Central president Michele Ganeless said in a statement. "Jon has been at the heart of Comedy Central, championing and nurturing the best talent in the industry, in front of and behind the camera. Through his unique voice and vision, The Daily Show has become a cultural touchstone for millions of fans and an unparalleled platform for political comedy that will endure for years to come."

No set date for Stewart's departure was announced, though Ganeless did say the host would continue on the show "until later this year." Stewart first took a leave of absence from the show to direct his feature film, Rosewater, leaving Oliver to sit in for him.

Double the Spider-Man, half the Garfield

Good news for comic book movie fans, but not so much good news for Amazing Spider-Man star Andrew Garfield. Marvel has hashed out a deal to regain creative control of one of its highest-profile characters without the beleaguered Sony having to lose one of its two remaining bankable franchises — the other being Bond.

According to a statement from Marvel, "the new Spider-Man will first appear in a Marvel film from Marvel's Cinematic Universe. Sony Pictures will thereafter release the next instalment of its $4-billion Spider-Man franchise, on July 28, 2017, in a film that will be co-produced by Kevin Feige and his expert team at Marvel, and Amy Pascal, who oversaw the franchise launch for the studio 13 years ago. Together, they will collaborate on a new creative direction for the web-slinger. Sony Pictures will continue to finance, distribute, own and have final creative control of the Spider-Man films."

Andrew Garfield

Unfortunately, when they say "the new Spider-Man," they're not kidding. The Hollywood Reporter claims that current Spidey star Andrew Garfield will not be involved. Now, the real question is which Marvel film Spider-Man first pops up in. The smart money is on Captain America: Civil War, due out in May 2016, but wouldn't it be awesome if he snuck into this year's Avengers sequel?

Weird Al gets Whiplashed

Weird Al Yankovic is taking the prep for his upcoming world tour very seriously. Maybe a little too seriously, according to a new College Humor video that pits Yankovic against Oscar nominee J.K. Simmons' terrorizing Whiplash music teacher. If you've always loved tense Oscar movie standoffs and accordion-drenched polka, but never dreamed of the two flavours blended together, this is your moment.

Weird Al Yankovic

Chrissy Teigen and John Legend

Did John Legend get busy at an Obama fundraiser?

Barack Obama's 2008 presidential campaign was really, really inspiring — and apparently a turn-on for John Legend and Chrissy Teigen. When asked on the Grammys red carpet about the best public place they've ever made whoopee, Teigen blurted out, "Probably the Obama thing." But when pressed for details, Legend clammed up. "We're not talking about that. We're not going to discuss that," Legend insists. Teigen at least wants to make clear that it was "not at the White House," with her husband teasing that the dirty deed took place before Obama was elected.

So, who wants to go back and check what campaign stops Legend appeared at in 2008?

Study proves key female roles are on the wane

If you've felt like actresses aren't getting the same opportunities as their male counterparts in Hollywood, you're on to something. And now there's actual, verifiable proof of your hunch. A new study by the Center for the Study of Women in Television and Film at San Diego State University has found that women only comprised 12 per cent of the protagonists in 2014's top-grossing films, while they'd been at 15 per cent in 2013 and 16 per cent in 2012. So just because The Hunger Games and Maleficent did really, really well last year, don't be fooled.

"There is a growing disconnect or gap between what we might perceive as being the current status of women in film and their actual status," says the study's author, Martha Lauzen. "A few high-profile cases can skew our thinking."

OK, fine, but how do we fix it?

Angelina Jolie as Maleficent

The novels that Hollywood couldn't ignore

Adaptations. With a Fifty Shades film soon upon us, we look back at how iffy bestsellers fared on the big screen

This weekend sees the release of Fifty Shades of Grey, the latest publishing sensation to become a hotly anticipated film. Advance ticket sales have already broken records.

But it's not the first time that a bestseller with a questionable reputation has led to a no-brainer film. Here are other instances where a novel was just too big for the movies to ignore. **MATT PRIGGE/METRO IN NEW YORK CITY**

Gone with the Wind

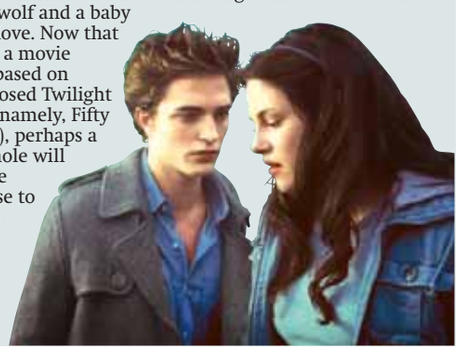
Author: Margaret Mitchell
Copies sold: 30 million
Publishing date: 1936
Made into a movie in: 1939

Mitchell's Civil War saga was a mega-seller right off the bat. In fact, the film rights were sold only a month after it was published. By the time shooting was underway in early 1939, the novel — which was only part trash and even won the Pulitzer — was such a sensation that any film needed to have equal immensity. And it got it: not only does the finished film run nearly four hours, but it was made with the finest wares — as much a technical achievement as an artistic one. Indeed, every single Technicolor shot is a doozy, and every performance so deeply felt that ignoring its racial politics proves easier than it should be.

Twilight series

Author: Stephenie Meyer
Copies sold: 120 million
Publishing dates: 2005-2011
Made into movies: 2008-2012

The trend by which any moderately selling YA series can beget a movie franchise began here. It made a mint out of a piece of Mormon propaganda warning young readers about the dangers of teenage sex before going, in its final instalment, full-tilt boogie with super-sex, a birth scene that would make David Cronenberg vomit and a bit where a werewolf and a baby fall in love. Now that there's a movie series based on repurposed Twilight fanfic (namely, Fifty Shades), perhaps a wormhole will tear the universe to shreds.



Lolita

Author: Vladimir Nabokov
Copies sold: 50 million
Publishing date: 1955
Made into a movie in: 1961

Lolita isn't a trash novel; it's one of the most beautifully written achievements in literature. Nevertheless, let's assume the majority of those buying Nabokov's book about a "nymphette" loved by an obsessive scholar were drawn to its raciness, not its flowing prose. But Lolita's cultural importance couldn't be ignored, even by a Hollywood still hogtied by the censorious Production Code, which meant the very basis of the story could be made neither explicit nor even implied. Stanley Kubrick wound up with the thankless job of directing it, and he turned in a fascinatingly torn picture, one that amped up the comedy (thanks to Peter Sellers) but also, via lead James Mason, the tragic despair. In 1998, a more faithful — albeit still understandably bashful — film was made by Fatal Attraction's Adrian Lyne, but it had none of the wit and anguish of Kubrick's severely compromised film.

Love Story

Author: Erich Segal
Copies sold: 21 million
Publishing date: 1970
Made into a movie in: 1970

Actually, this wasn't technically an adaptation: Segal had first written his tale of an Ivy Leaguer who falls for a diseased Radcliffe honey as a screenplay, then turned it into a novel while production was underway. It became a bestseller, which only helped the film: Readers could flip over the final page and promptly go see the earnest film made of it, which producer Robert Evans memorably described as having caused "more pregnancies ... than any other ever made in the history of film." Evans was a whiz with literary movies — having already tackled Rosemary's Baby by this point, he would next turn to Mario Puzo's The Godfather.

Valley of the Dolls

Author: Jacqueline Susann
Copies sold: 30 million
Publishing date: 1966
Made into a movie in: 1967

In 1966, Susann's trash-fest about pill-popping Hollywood ingenues became the year's bestseller. By 1967, it was one of the year's top-grossing movies. Neither was respected, though, and by 1970, the studio that owned it had assigned T&A man Russ Meyer and acclaimed young film critic Roger Ebert to lampoon it with Beyond the Valley of the Dolls.

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Spinoff series

Bob Odenkirk stars in Better Call Saul. CONTRIBUTED

Saul debut among most watched in cable history

AMC's new Breaking Bad spinoff got off to an excellent start on Sunday evening, attracting 6.9 million viewers. This was the second-most-watched premiere in U.S. cable history, just behind the first episode of The Closer.

Bolstered by The Walking Dead as its lead-in, Better Call Saul premiered Sunday, Feb. 8 on AMC to an audience of 6.9 million. The prequel series about the lawyer Saul Goodman got off to a much stronger start than Breaking Bad, which debuted in January 2008 to 1.4 million viewers.

AFP

Jake Johnson has made up a new rule for True American, the show's beloved drinking game. CONTRIBUTED

What's New with the Girl?

TV. Jake Johnson chats about his character, his cast and the game that's caused a stir

LISA WEIDENFELD
Metro in New York City

Midway through its fourth season, New Girl is still finding new situations to throw its oddball loft residents into. This season has seen the characters exploring new careers, as Winston tries life as a cop, Jess takes on leadership responsibilities at her school and Nick and Schmidt decide to team up and sell sweatsuit suits. But that doesn't mean the show isn't going to give the people a little bit of what they love about the show. We talked to Jake Johnson (Nick) about what's ahead for the show, and a new confusing rule for their famous history-based drinking game, True American.

Will we see more True American this year?
Absolutely. I think we'll see True American for as long as the show goes.

Are you an expert on the game at this point?
Here's the reality, and it's disappointing for fans who want it to be something it's not. I say this as an expert, because I've been in every True American scene, and I was there when it started: There are no rules.

You guys are just making it up?
The guy who wrote the first one, Luvh Rakhe, came to set and said, we haven't figured this one out. It's some sort of a drinking game. And then we all started saying things that we used to do in drinking games.

So you just throw in anything you can think of.
It's like the chop suey of drinking games. Anything you got, throw it in. If you're playing quarters and want to turn it into True American, you can. Just add it, and it's True American.

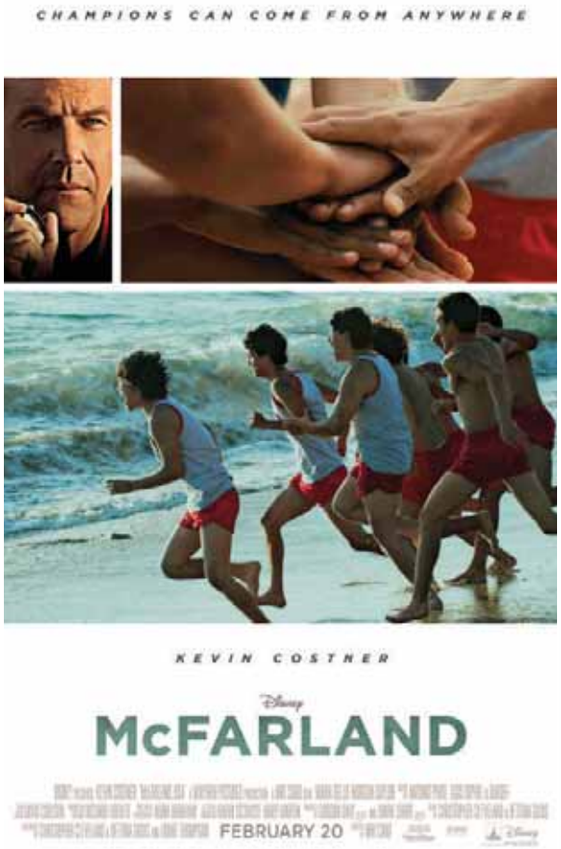
Well, there's a president on the coin.
That's right. That's what it is. You have to say a president if you hit it, then you point to who drinks and that's your vice-president. If they don't know the vice-president of the president you named, they have to take two drinks.

We just saw Nick get dumped. What's coming up for him?
Nick's going to be single a bit. I'd like to see Nick date a little bit. I'd like to see him find somebody. I just texted Liz Meriwether, maybe it's time Nick gets in a relationship. Hopefully she'll listen. I'd like to date someone who's a really good actor and do a bunch of stories with them.

Look out for it

Anything else you can tease about what's coming up on the show?

- Justin Long is coming back, Josh Gad is coming back. So we got some good stuff coming up.



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Cali's sand and surf combo

Adventure. Just a quick flight separates ski and surf in the Golden State's south

MIKE DOJC
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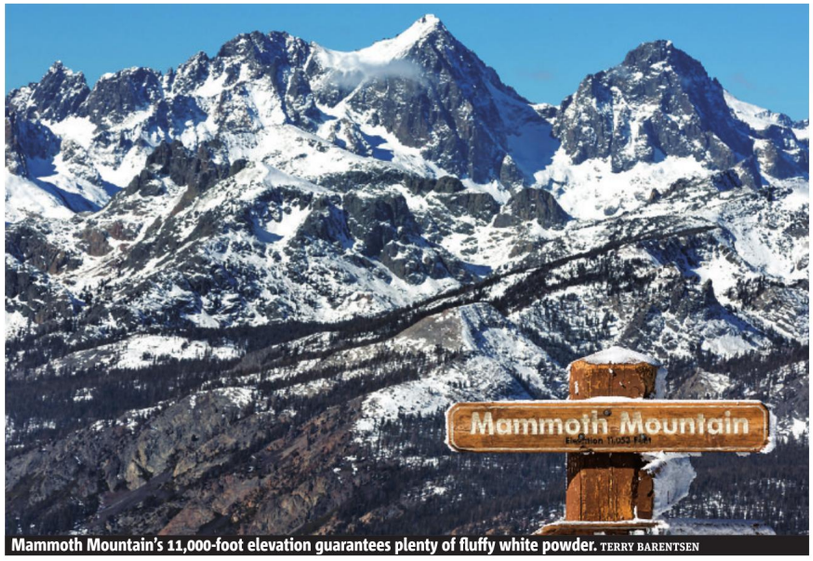
Shredding powder and riding frothy swells may be mutually exclusive pursuits but just as chefs routinely indulge palates by putting lobster and steak on the same plate, skiing and surfing don't have to be getaway strangers, even in the dead of winter. Indulge in the best of both worlds in Southern California by pairing a ski vacation at Mammoth Mountain with some surfing in San Diego.

Some like it cold

Mammoth Lakes, a quick flight from San Diego, L.A. or San Francisco, is a snowy town that sits atop a sleeping volcano in a valley on the eastern side of the Sierra Nevada Mountains. A West Coast winter wonderland, Mammoth is home to the third most popular ski mountain in the U.S. after Vail and Breckenridge. Forget about California concrete — that heavy, wet, gloppy snow associated with other parts of the Golden State.

Mammoth's pillowy white stuff is as fluffy and cuddly as the Ice Age flicks. The mountain tends to get covered in a lighter snow owing to its 11,000-foot elevation, and because it's predominantly north-facing, the snowpack stays fresher longer, allowing for an extended season. The mountain has stayed open as late as July 4.

Intermediate skiers keen to climb to the summit for a sick 360-degree view of alpine peaks and indelible white-capped minarets are in luck. Exit the mountain-topping Panorama Gondola and peel right toward the blue square-rated Upper Road Runner, a leisurely three-mile-long cat track that offers plenty of scenic vistas as it winds its way back down to Main Lodge.



Mammoth Mountain's 11,000-foot elevation guarantees plenty of fluffy white powder. TERRY BARENTSEN

Sky high

Keep the adrenalin pumping by jumping off a 300-foot cliff at Torrey Pines Gliderport. Tethered to a giant kite, you'll soar like an eagle over Black's Beach and one of Cali's most storied golf courses. Tandem paraglides with a USHPA-certified instructor are $175 and be sure to get there a little early to sign and initial a sheaf of paperwork about as thick as a small-town phone book.

If ski and surf aren't enough, try paragliding over Black's Beach. TERRY BARENTSEN

Stay: Steps from the village and a gondola to the slopes, the Westin Monache Resort puts you in the heart of Mammoth. Plus, the breathtaking Mountain view from the outdoor hot tubs doesn't hurt.

Après-ski

For a taste of Cali-style barbecue, line up for a table at The Smokeyard BBQ & Chop Shop in Mammoth village. The shop is ostensibly a purveyor of smoky, finger-licking carnivorous delights; their brontosaurus-sized beef ribs will lull you into a Flinstonian meat coma. But outside an array of slow-cooked animal-flesh options are a couple unexpected menu items that shout out to the South African proprietors' culinary heritage. There's a mildly spiced durban curry as well as potjiekos (a popular Rainbow Nation stew) on offer. Next, toast to the high altitude lifestyle with a brew or two from Mammoth Brewing Company. Sip on a Fire & Eisbock, practically Mammoth in a bottle. Lava rocks heated up under an open fire dropped into the boil lend it a caramelized flavour and post-fermentation freeze distillation amps up the alcohol content.

Some like it hot

San Diego's 90 kilometres of sun-kissed playa has something for both beach bums and adventurers. For communing with bohemians and the dazed and confused set, head to Ocean Beach. For a wave-riding initiation, La Jolla Shores is the place. The scenic cliffs and caves block south swells, creating a protected bay for most of the year. Even if your idea of hanging 10 is holding onto the rim of a basketball hoop, the vivacious and confidence-instilling instructors at Surf Diva (2160 Avenida de la Playa) will have you up and riding in no time. Private one-hour surf lessons can be had for $93.50 or $99 for Stand Up Paddleboarding, with lower per-person rates for small groups.

Après-surf

Recap the day's exploits while sipping on something at Hard Rock Hotel San Diego's rooftop bar FLOAT, a posh lounge with firepits and cocktail waitresses in outfits snatched from Jessie J's closet.

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Valentine's Day getaways

Victoria, B.C. was voted the most romantic city in Canada in 2013 by Amazon.ca users. ISTOCK

Love is in the air at these destinations

ON THE MOVE
Loren Christie
life@metronews.ca

Looking to do more than give your sweetheart a dozen roses this Valentine's Day? There are plenty of options across the country for a last-minute romantic getaway.

Victoria, B.C., was voted the Most Romantic City in Canada in 2013 by Amazon.ca and third in the Top Ten Most Romantic North America Getaways in 2014. Stroll along Government Street, where the trees are wrapped in pink and red fairy lights, enjoy a candle-lit dinner overlooking the inner harbour or hide away for a night at the Inn at Laurel Point. In addition to a number of romance themed hotel packages for guests, the entire staff have undergone Month of Love training sessions, ensuring they are immersed in the Valentine's Day spirit and ready to share their favourite romantic moments, movies and quotes.

Skating hand-in-hand along Ottawa's Rideau Canal skate way is the perfect outdoor romantic activity. Follow that with a soak in the hot pools and a visit to the steam rooms and saunas of the Nordik Nature Spa in nearby Chelsea, Québec. Ottawa Tourism's Winterlude Amour package includes two nights' accommodation at a variety of hotels, shopping discounts at the downtown Rideau Centre and optional passes to a variety of museums, spa treatments or a chocolate lover's tour of the ByWard Market neighbourhood with C'est Bon Epicurean Adventures.

If you find yourself in Banff, Alta. on Feb. 14, take your special someone to the Cave and Basin National Historic Site. A brand new outdoor skating rink is opening on the grounds just in time for the big day. Sweep your sweetie off his or her feet with an evening of skating under the moonlight accompanied by music and old-time movies and surrounded by the splendour of the Rocky Mountains.

Where to warm yourself after a walk through Quebec's winter wonderland

Stay in. Ward off the chill by trying out some of these indoor activities in the Carnaval community

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The Fairmont Le Château Frontenac has a wine and cheese bar featuring one of the largest varieties of Quebec cheese in Canada. ANDREW DOBSON/METRO

No other centre in Canada celebrates winter quite like Quebec City, with pristine snow coating the landscape, giving the appearance everything is all tucked away in a snow globe.

It's a city known for being downright frigid, but luckily there's ample opportunity to rest and relax in wondrous warmth.

Plant yourself in Old Quebec at the toasty warm boutique property Hotel 71, located in the building that was once the National Bank of Canada's first head office. The building's facade is a stunning example of 19th century neo-classic architecture while its interior features 60 contemporary rooms and suites. Peek outside for views of the mighty St. Lawrence River.

The Fairmont Le Château Frontenac is the city's iconic castle, which has recently undergone a $74-million renovation.

Your best bet for a sip and nibble is at 1608 Wine and Cheese Bar, featuring one of the largest varieties of top Quebec fromage in Canada, from their very own gilded Cheese Room.

The bar features a dazzling chandelier show, stuffed Canada geese which appear to fly out of the wall, and an eclectic selection of furniture which makes one want to cosy up to the fireplace, crack open a book and cuddle with a cocktail.

Located along the St. Lawrence River at Sainte-Anne-de-Beaupré, Spa des Neiges offers a relaxing and memorable stay for those who enjoy the great outdoors.

This Nordic-inspired spa offers three outdoor thermal baths, sauna, steam room, teepees and relaxation rooms with a view. I'll never forget moving off my massage table like a zombie, pulling on a white robe and flip-flops and marching into the winter's cold to bob up and down in a steaming al fresco bath!

You haven't been to Quebec unless you've taken a moment to pause over a steaming bowl of poutine.

Leave your calorie counter at the door and step into the Chic Shack. The trendy restaurant offers local craft beer and divine gelato mixed milkshakes which pair perfectly with poutine.

Enjoy a classic with gravy and curds or switch it up with Coq Au Vin and Mushroom Ragout inspired indulgences.

Come to Carnaval!

- Cheer for the chilly at Quebec's 61st annual Carnaval, North America's most popular winter festival, which runs till Feb. 15. Wave hello to the festival's iconic mascot Bonhomme and sip hot cocoa while touring his awe-inspiring ice castle. Game of Thrones fans will notice a special treat at the festival this year as HBO Canada commissioned local ice sculptor Marc Lepire to replicate the show's iconic Iron Throne out of ice. The Ice Throne was unveiled on the eve of the festival and marks the official launch of the show's fourth season on Blue-ray and DVD, available across Canada on Feb. 17.

Kale shows off its hearty side in a soup

Dinner. The green that is typically thrown into smoothies or salads is the star in this warming dish that also features potatoes and sausage

DINNER EXPRESS
Emily Richards
food@metronews.ca

The month of February is the perfect time to enjoy some great sports and, of course, delicious food.

Even though football has died down, basketball and hockey are holding strong, along with curling and the golf tournaments that make me wish for warmer weather.

So as I was thinking about all these hard-working athletes and what I would cook for them, my mind went to a winter warm-up recipe in which soup grabs the spotlight.

I'm convinced soup would hit the spot for many athletes and sport watchers alike.

So here is a great winter warm-up soup that is easy to serve to your family for a weeknight meal or to friends when they come over to watch the game. It also works well for a lunchtime meal.

This soup has a rich broth full of sausage, potatoes and greens that add fibre and a hearty taste.

Directions

1. In large soup pot, heat oil over medium-high heat and brown sausages on all sides. Remove to cutting board, cut into slices and return to pot.

2. Add onions, carrot, celery and garlic and cook, stirring for about 5 minutes or until softened. Add potatoes and stock. Bring to boil, cover and reduce heat and simmer for about 15 minutes or until potatoes are tender when pierced with fork.

3. Meanwhile, chop kale and Swiss chard to make about 12 cups (3 litres) of lightly packed greens. Add to sausage mixture and simmer uncovered for about 15 minutes or until greens are tender.

Ingredients

- 1 tbsp (15 ml) extra virgin olive oil
- 1 lb (500 g) fresh chorizo, Italian, farmer's or chicken sausages
- 2 onions, chopped
- 1 each carrot and celery stalk, chopped
- 2 cloves garlic, minced
- 4 Yukon Gold potatoes, (about 1 1/2 lbs/750 g) peeled and chopped
- 10 cups (2.5 l) low-sodium beef stock
- 1 small bunch kale, with the tough ribs removed
- Half bunch Swiss chard, trimmed

This Chunky Sausage and Kale Soup recipe serves six to eight. EMILY RICHARDS

Clams, croutons and broth — oh, my!

You'll find soy chorizo in the grocer's refrigerated case alongside tofu and other vegetarian "meats." Some soy chorizo is packed in casings and crumbles easily when they are removed. Other varieties have a texture similar to chicken sausage and can be sliced or chopped for use in this recipe.

1. Heat the oven to 350 F. Line a rimmed baking sheet with kitchen parchment or foil.

2. Arrange bread cubes on the prepared baking sheet, then mist with olive oil, tossing to coat all sides. Sprinkle with salt and pepper, then toast in the oven until golden, about 10 minutes, stirring halfway through. Remove croutons from oven and allow to cool.

3. Meanwhile, make the soup. In a large, heavy saucepan or Dutch oven over medium heat, melt the butter. Add the shallots and cook, stirring often, until soft, about 5 minutes. Crumble the soy chorizo and add to the pot. Cook until lightly golden, about another 5 minutes. Add the garlic and cook another minute, or until very fragrant.

4. Sprinkle with flour, then stir. Increase heat to medium-high and add the wine, stirring constantly for about 1 minute to deglaze the pan. Add the chicken stock and water, then bring to a simmer. Taste and season with salt and pepper, as needed.

5. Stir in the kale, then gently add the clams. Cover the pot and let the clams steam just until they open, about 4 minutes, removing the clams as they open and discarding any that don't. Remove the pot from heat and stir in the opened clams. Stir in the lemon juice, then ladle into serving bowls. Top the prepared soup with croutons and parsley.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS/ MELISSA D'ARABIAN, AN EXPERT ON HEALTHY EATING ON A BUDGET AND AUTHOR OF SUPERMARKET HEALTHY.

Ingredients

- 3 slices French or Italian bread, cut into 1-inch cubes
- Olive oil cooking spray
- Salt and ground black pepper
- 3 tbsp butter
- 4 shallots, sliced
- 1/2 lbs soy chorizo sausage, casings removed (if any)
- 3 cloves garlic, minced
- 1 tsp all-purpose flour
- 2/3 cup dry white wine
- 2 1/2 cups low-sodium chicken stock
- 1/2 cup water
- 3/4 bunch kale, stems discarded, chopped (about 1 1/2 cups)
- 2 lbs fresh clams, scrubbed
- 1 tbsp lemon juice
- 1/2 cup chopped fresh parsley

This recipe serves four. MATTHEW MEAD/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Finding an inclusive work environment

Career. How to know if an employer is welcoming towards individuals with disabilities

CAROLINE RUDOLPH-ZBARSKY
TalentEgg.ca

Getting a job if you have a disability can be easier than you might think if you know where to look.

Today, companies want to be more inclusive of the Canadian workforce and more reflective of the customers that they serve.

My experience as an employment specialist has shown me that companies often don't know where to go to find diverse talent. Recent graduates with disabilities are often afraid to apply for their ideal positions for fear of discrimination through the recruitment process without realizing those employers may be seeking someone with precisely their profile.

Below are a few tips for finding employers committed to recruiting and retaining diverse talent.

Diversity and Inclusion (D&I) partnerships

Identifying employers that sponsor, partner with and/or support organizations and associations committed to D&I is one way to know if an employer is inclusive. Such employers typically have a culture that is open, accommodating, and values diversity. Research which employers support these efforts.

There are numerous major Canadian D&I organizations worth checking out.

Here are some of my favourites:

• The Canadian Centre for Diversity and Inclusion (CCDI): This organization provides tools and support to employers looking to become more inclusive.

• The Job Opportunity Information Network (JOIN): With more than 60 employer partners, their Business Leadership Network consists of more than 30 employers who are committed to promoting the hiring of persons with disabilities.

• Canadian Business SenseAbility: A national organization run by private-sector business leaders aiming to accelerate business success through the talents of persons with disabilities.

The Google test

When evaluating a company's commitment to D&I, start with a simple online search, which can be surprisingly effective.

Companies aren't shy about communicating and promoting their values: They want clients, staff, prospective employees and stakeholders to know their organizational beliefs, goals and commitments.

When attracting the best talent, they want to demonstrate why they are an employer of choice. It's also good for business; people prefer to deal with companies with good cultures and core values.

Searching for the employer 'name + diversity + Canada' gives a pretty good overview of their commitment level.

Check their website to see if they have a diversity section, learn about their inclusive practices, what causes they support and their current initiatives.

Companies that support inclusive hiring will make an effort to highlight this on a diversity page.

Are they award-winning?

To be recognized with an award, companies must be doing a few things right. Numerous organizations recognize the efforts of employers who are making an impact with their diversity and inclusion practices.

The two following awards are to me the more prestigious out there. Take a look at the lists and see which employers have won awards and why.

The Canada's Best Diversity Employers list recognizes Canadian employers with "exceptional workplace diversity and inclusiveness programs." The 100 winning employers (all in Canada) are a strong core of more than 3,500 companies that participated in the competition.

Both the DiversityInc Top 50 List and the DiversityInc Top 10 Companies For People With Disabilities are a rich database of inclusive global companies with operations in Canada.

Their ranking mechanism is quite detailed, including factors such as inclusiveness of their career application process, the level of on-the-job accommodations offered, their focus on working with vendors owned by persons with disabilities and the presence of certain benefits such as telecommuting and employee resource groups.

Major conferences and job fairs

Participation and support of diversity and inclusion events are great indicators of the level of inclusiveness at a particular company. Companies attend these events because it is important to their values.

- At recruiting sessions, they are looking for diverse talent. Here you can meet and network with individuals responsible for recruitment initiatives to promote inclusion at their organizations. At conferences and seminars advocating for inclusive practices you can connect with employers, who support these initiatives.
- You can also follow organizations committed to D&I on Twitter and LinkedIn and join their mailing lists to ensure you don't miss out on any upcoming events.

With the right employer, you can find a perfect fit, including accommodations in both the built environment and the workplace culture itself. ISTOCK

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Whether 'tis better to grow as an intern or a volunteer

Career. Choosing which works best for great career experience

LAUREN MARINIGH
TalentEgg.ca

What's the difference between an internship and a volunteer role?

Both roles have similarities, but there are qualities in each role that may or may not suit your current lifestyle or position.

Here are some things to consider when selecting your next opportunity.

Commitment

An internship may not allow much flexibility in your schedule. Most internships run during regular business hours — five days a week. This means you will have limited time to earn an income outside of your role. Depending on the compensation for the internship you're considering, this may not be beneficial if you have bills and rent to keep up with.

Volunteering has more flexibility, since most gigs don't require an extensive time commitment.

It provides you with a chance to get involved and gain experience, but also earn income and go to work on the side. However, since you won't be putting in as many hours, or doing the work as regularly, it may take longer to adjust to the role and sharpen those skills.

Make sure to lay out your commitments: How big an impact will taking on your new role have on your current schedule? If this opportunity is worth taking time away from a steady income, how can you arrange your budget so you don't end up in the red?

Environment

Taking on an internship will give you great experience to add to your resumé, and allow you to network. This is especially valuable for students and new graduates who are looking for a great foot-in-the-door role.

There are many industries that present volunteer opportunities as well.

Internships often take place in a professional environment, allowing you to experience working in an industry role with veterans in your field.
ISTOCK

However, volunteering often takes place in a more laid-back setting.

Chances are you'll be working with other volunteers, and while there will likely be some people who can provide valuable career advice and mentorship, it probably will not give you the same workplace experience of deadlines and urgency.

Having said this, volunteer experience is still valuable on your resumé, even if not directly related to your industry.

There are often transferable skills that you can showcase to a potential employer. It all comes down to what you want to gain.

Is the workplace culture and environment very important to you when gaining experience?

Or are you comfortable working from home or your set volunteer location in a more relaxed setting? Either way, you'll get great rewards out of either role.

Money matters

Keep in mind all expenses associated with the position you are considering.

- Some roles may require you to commute to a set location. Think about how far away you will have to travel and how you will be getting there. Budget the cost for transit fare or gas, and consider how frequently you will need to travel.
- Does your workplace require a dress code? Most volunteer organizations are not very strict on dress codes, but some offices where you will be interning may require business formal or business casual outfits. Will you have to purchase new outfits for the position?

Responsibilities

Take a look at the responsibilities you want to gain as a volunteer or intern. What would a typical day look like? Is there opportunity for growth?

An internship may involve working on smaller tasks to support working professionals, but it will allow you to gain mentorship from someone in a position you aspire to hold someday.

And understanding how the small tasks you do help create the final product is incredibly useful when you step into a job with more responsibilities.

In a volunteer role, there is more flexibility for leadership opportunities. If you are the type of person that is great at calling shots and delegating, you should know that many organizations now hire volunteers to take on management roles.

Are you a recent marketing graduate? Perhaps you might consider applying for a Marketing Manager role. The requirements for experience are not as strict, but it will look great on a resumé for future employers.

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Sens' Lehner still a work in progress

THE HOCKEY NEWS
Murray Pam
ottawa@metronews.ca

Senators goaltender Robin Lehner wears his heart on his sleeve. After the Blue Jackets scored their fourth goal in the dying moments Saturday, the netminder reached his boiling point — tossing his stick in frustration, then breaking it while skating off the ice.

Coach Dave Cameron admonished the 23-year-old privately post-game. "I don't like it … No matter why you do it, it looks like you're showing up your teammates," Cameron said. Cameron acknowledged, Lehner is an emotional player and needs to channel himself in a more positive manner. Cameron added, "You're not always going to feel great when you play the game …but there's a fine line, too, that's negative emotion."

A visibly upset Lehner offered up the following comments in the locker-room; "Let's take it to a shootout. Let's take it to overtime. Let's get a point." The young Swede noted the Senators gave up too many odd-man rushes in a tight game. "Small mistakes, they're disparaging. It's frustrating."

The 2009 second-round selection wasn't incorrect in his assessment of the team's performance. The Senators strayed from Cameron's structured system. But many questioned the manner in which Lehner conveyed his comments.

Senators goalie Robin Lehner makes a save on the Capitals' Jay Beagle on Thursday at the Canadian Tire Centre. Lehner made 27 saves in the 2-1 loss. ADRIAN WYLD/THE CANADIAN PRESS

With Craig Anderson recouping from a blocker hand injury, it was Lehner's fifth consecutive start and arguably his best game — four of five were losses. The six-foot-five, 225-pounder wants to show the organization that he's clearly the club's goalie of the future, if not the here and now. Therein lies Lehner's frustration.

This campaign hasn't been an enjoyable one for the slumping Senators, especially so for Lehner, who until played sparingly prior to the all-star break. Due to an illness and a nagging knee injury, Lehner appeared in only four games since Dec. 15.

By the numbers

.914

Lehner's career save percentage in the NHL prior to Tuesday night's game.

The young Swede is a fiery, competitive guy who wants to play every day. Anderson's stellar play kept Lehner out of the crease. With the Senators' playoff chances diminishing daily, he will surely get more opportunities.

The club has some tough choices down the road. General manager Bryan Murray would like to keep the duo. Anderson is under contract for the next three years. However, it's highly unlikely that one or the other will be content on backing up in future. What the club does will alter the franchise path down the road.

One has to remember Lehner is only 82 games into his NHL career. He has plenty of experience to gain, on and off the ice.

NHL

Bettman not committed to team in Vegas

NHL commissioner Gary Bettman spent Tuesday touring an arena under construction on the Las Vegas Strip, shilling for season-ticket sales, and posing for pictures with showgirls and the man who wants to bring the first major professional sports franchise to the gambling city. Then he insisted the NHL has barely given the issue of expansion a second thought.

While Bettman was careful not to commit the NHL to Las Vegas, his presence at prospective owner Bill Foley's kickoff campaign was surely noted far beyond the Las Vegas Strip. And Foley and others seemed confident that once the goal of 10,000 season-ticket sales is realized, it won't be long before the NHL comes forward with an expansion franchise for the city.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Order of Hockey

Quinn headlines 2015 class

Pat Quinn, Serge Savard and Jim Gregory have been named to the 2015 class of the Order of Hockey in Canada.

Quinn coached Team Canada to its first Olympic gold medal in 50 years at the 2002 Salt Lake City Games. He also led the nation to gold at the 2004 World Cup of Hockey, the 2008 under-18 world championship and the 2009 world junior championship.

He died in Vancouver on Nov. 23 following a long illness. THE CANADIAN PRESS

UFC welterweight Lombard tests positive for steroid use

The UFC has had to rejig its April 25 pay-per-view card in Montreal, replacing a co-main event pulled because of another failed drug test.

Demetrious (Mighty Mouse) Johnson will defend his flyweight title against Japan's Kyoji Horiguchi, ranked eighth among 125-pound contenders, in the co-main event of UFC 186.

The Johnson-Horiguchi bout replaces the original co-main event featuring welterweight contenders Rory MacDonald and Hector Lombard.

Tweeted

"I don't have a clue at this point, but I trust the UFC made a decision for a good reason!"

Hector Lombard on his fight being cancelled

The Nevada State Athletic Commission confirmed Tuesday that Lombard had tested positive for an anabolic steroid at UFC 182 on Jan. 3.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

NBA

Wade turns down all-star game to rest hamstring

Dwyane Wade will not play in Sunday's NBA All-Star Game.

The Miami Heat guard and 11-time all-star selection made the announcement Tuesday.

Wade, a three-time NBA champion, has been recovering from a strained right hamstring. That injury has kept him out of Miami's last six games. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Bouchard questionable for Fed Cup tie vs. Romania

Canada has a chance to return to the elite World Group I of the Fed Cup women's tennis tournament, but whether Eugenie Bouchard is on hand to help remains to be seen.

Canada was drawn on Tuesday to host Romania in a World Group playoff tie April 18-19.

Bouchard declined to play for Canada in last weekend's first-round World Group tie, won by defending champion Czech Republic 4-0 in Quebec City. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Eugenie Bouchard
HANNAH PETERS/GETTY IMAGES

Canada's top kayaker lives on road

Funding. Set on making the Pan Am and Olympic Games, Ben Hayward says building his house on wheels 'was the only way'

Ben Hayward's home measures about seven square metres and is currently parked in an overflow lot in southern France.

Faced with financial challenges that could have derailed his Olympic dream, the kayaker from Edmonton has taken the nomadic lifestyle of the amateur athlete to a whole new level.

Hayward lives and travels in a camper van he built from scratch on a flatbed truck, combining his background in architecture with his need to live and train in Europe on the cheap.

"Amateur sport in Canada is pretty poorly funded as it is; and then summer sport is even worse," Hayward said in a phone interview from Australia, where he's racing this weekend. "I needed to find something that would be affordable and pretty much this was the only way."

His "Hobbit Van," as he fondly refers to it, resembles a hobbit house on four wheels, complete with a round hobbit door. The 25-year-old, who's Canada's top whitewater paddler, originally planned to buy a van, but after four days of searching in Wales left him empty-handed, the idea to build his own was hatched over a cold pint in a Cardiff pub.

Hayward purchased the nine-year-old army-green truck for $2,200. He and a friend worked 18 hours a day over four days constructing the maple wood exterior. The former Carleton architecture student then added a kitchen and a handcrafted couch that turns into a spare bed. A wind turbine and solar panels give power.

Appliances came in thanks to a crowd-funding campaign last summer. The name of every donor is hand-painted within a giant maple leaf on one outer wall.

"It's actually a really nice space to live in."

Ben Hayward built his "Hobbit Van," complete with a round hobbit door, inspired on the Lord of the Rings trilogy. CONTRIBUTED/THE CANADIAN PRESS

The total cost was $10,000, which is completely paid off, leaving him with just fuel costs and food expenses.

Hayward spent four months this past fall living in his hobbit van while he trained in France.

Hayward is coming off the best season of his career, making two World Cup finals, finishing sixth and ninth in men's K1. He won Canadian national titles in four different disciplines. He has his sights on a strong showing at this summer's Pan American Games in Toronto and a spot on Canada's Olympic team for Rio.

He's racing the K1 this week at the Australia Open at Penrith's Whitewater Stadium, the whitewater venue for the 2000 Sydney Olympics.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Balotelli strikes back

Mario Balotelli went from forgotten man to match-winner at Liverpool as his late goal against Tottenham tightened up the race for Champions League qualification in the Premier League on Tuesday.

The maverick Italy striker came off the bench for just his second appearance in a month, and pounced for an 83rd-minute strike to secure Liverpool a 3-2 win after the team had twice surrendered the lead at Anfield.

Arsenal, another team battling for a Champions League berth, scraped a 2-1 win over last-place Leicester to bounce back from its north London derby loss to Spurs and provisionally move level on points with third-place Southampton.

There are just three points between Southampton, whose game in hand is on Wednesday, and seventh-place Liverpool. Tottenham is sixth, a point ahead of Liverpool.

In Tuesday's other two games, Hull and Queens Park Rangers beat rivals for relegation to climb out of the bottom three. QPR's 2-0 win at Sunderland ended its run of 11 straight losses in Premier League away games, while Hull won by the same score over Aston Villa, which dropped into the relegation zone.

Mario Balotelli secured the win over Tottenham with an 83rd-minute goal. JON SUPER/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Liverpool fans arrived at Anfield to celebrate the first start after a long injury lay-off for Daniel Sturridge. They left singing the name of another striker.

Balotelli's future at Liverpool has looked bleak in recent months, with manager Brendan Rodgers acknowledging that the Italy international's lack of mobility doesn't suit the team ethos. Balotelli also hadn't scored a league goal since moving from AC Milan.

That changed when he poked in a cross from fellow substitute Adam Lallana, although he barely raised a smile as he was mobbed by teammates.

Spurs had come from behind twice in an entertaining game, with Lazar Markovic's opener in the 15th cancelled out by a superb turn and finish by in-form striker Harry Kane for his 23rd goal in all competitions this season.

Captain Steven Gerrard, who later went off with a hamstring injury, regained Liverpool's lead from the penalty spot in the 55th before Kane set up Mousa Dembele in the 61st for a second equalizer.

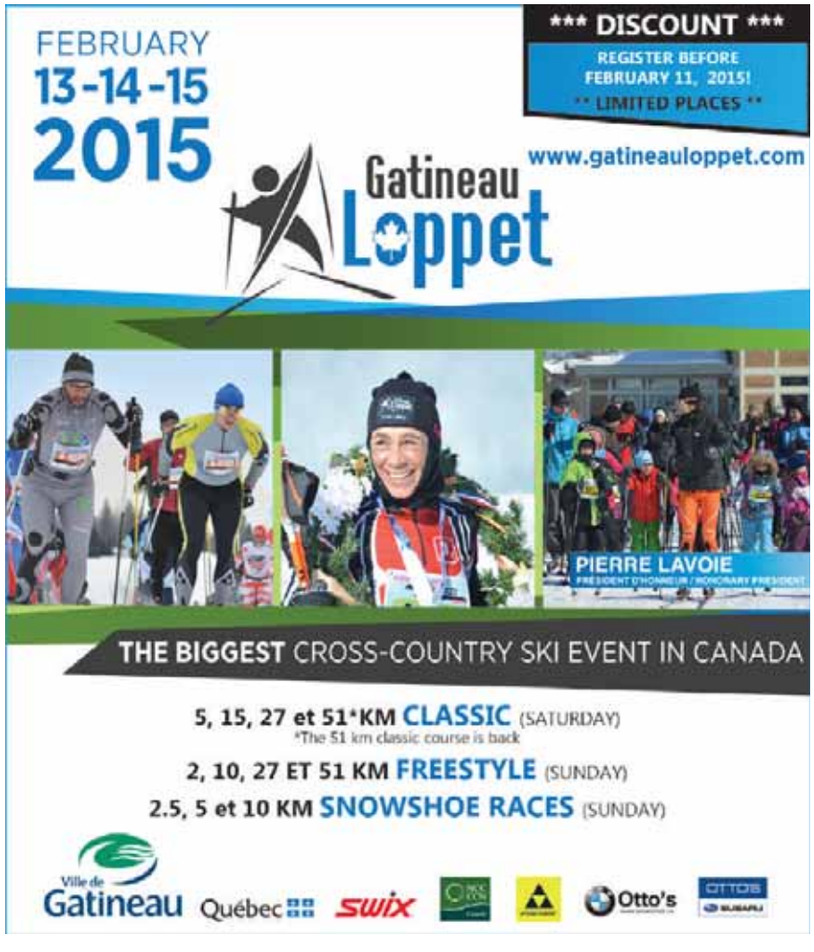
Liverpool is unbeaten in nine league games and midfielder Jordan Henderson said: "We've got a little momentum, we've been playing some great stuff and I thought we showed great character tonight."

Arsenal is back above Tottenham, three days after losing to its neighbour at White Hart Lane, after withstanding a spirited second-half response by Leicester.

Laurent Koscielny and Theo Walcott scored to give Arsenal a 2-0 lead by halftime. Leicester's Croatian striker Andrej Kramaric scored his first goal for the club in the 61st.

The win came at a cost for Arsenal as star forward Alexis Sanchez and midfielder Aaron Ramsey went off injured in the second half.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



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2015 GMC Yukon

- **Type.** Four-door, seven- or eight-passenger full-size SUV
- **Engines.** 5.3-litre V8 (355 hp), 6.2-litre V8 (420)
- **Transmissions.** 6- or 8-speed automatic
- **Price.** $51,850 base, $64,900 as-tested

Market position

GM says that one out of every three full-size, truck-based SUVs sold in Canada is a Yukon or Denali. In this limited segment, only the domestics offer two wheelbase lengths or a choice of engines.

Points

- The eight-speed transmission in the Denali is expected to make its way to other Yukon models eventually.
- The Denali includes an air-levelling suspension system and Magnetic Ride Control, which almost instantly tightens or softens the ride to match road conditions.
- Alert system warns about forward traffic or lane departure by vibrating the seat.

The first two rows are roomy, but the third row is very cramped.

Interesting features

Rear-view camera, oil and transmission cooler, front and rear park assist, rain-sensing wipers and remote starter are all standard; heated and cooled seats, power-folding third-row seat, adaptive cruise control, a rear-seat entertainment system, and power liftgate are all optional.

Do you want big, or bigger?

PHOTOS: JIL MCINTOSH

Review. GMC Yukon offers two wheelbase lengths and seating for eight, but is still light and nimble to drive

JIL MCINTOSH
drive@metronews.ca

Although the full-size SUV segment is not as large as it once was, the remaining players are as big as ever.

The all-new 2015 GMC Yukon is available in two "big and bigger" wheelbase lengths, and with seating for up to eight people.

It's based on the GMC Sierra pickup that was completely overhauled for 2014, although it doesn't share any of that truck's exterior panels.

The base SLE trim line and my tester, the SLT, use the Sierra's 5.3-litre V8 engine and come in two-wheel drive, or, as in my vehicle, four-wheel drive.

Pricing ranges from $51,850 to $64,900. You can also get a luxurious top-line Denali trim, which uses a 6.2-litre V8 and comes only as a 4x4, for $74,600.

My tester was the regular-wheelbase model, but you can also get the extended-length Yukon XL in all trim lines, which adds $3,050 to the price of each.

All Yukon models have three rows of seats, but the XL gives you more legroom and extra cargo space behind the third row.

The interior is as well-finished as you'd expect for the price, with simple controls.

For all its size, the Yukon doesn't feel as big as it is when you're driving it, thanks to light steering and quick response.

When full power isn't needed, such as when you're cruising at a steady speed, the engine shuts off half its cylinders to save gas. It happens so seamlessly that you usually have to depend on the display in the instrument cluster to tell you when it's only feeding fuel to four cylinders.

The interior is as well-finished as you'd expect for the price, with simple controls that are easy to use.

The first and second rows are roomy, but the third row is perched over the rear axle and, as a result, there's very little room for your knees and the seating position isn't very comfortable.

For those who prefer the Chevrolet nameplate, the Tahoe and longer-wheelbase Suburban are mechanically identical to the Yukon, but have differences in their trim packages and lower starting prices.

Compare

1 Ford Expedition
Base price: $50,299
Two wheelbase lengths, but the sole engine choice is a 365-hp, 3.5-litre EcoBoost V6.

2 Toyota Sequoia
Base price: $53,885
Based on the Tundra pickup, Sequoia uses that model's 5.7-litre V8 and is 4WD only.

3 Nissan Armada
Base price: $59,828
Armada comes only in one fully loaded Platinum trim, with a 5.6-litre V8 engine.

DRIVE

Shift: Feats in engineering promise greater mobility, increased fuel efficiency and incomparable style

Detroit electric sports car still at least a year away

Wannabe electric sports car manufacturer Detroit Electric has revealed its Lotus Evora-based SP:01 model in production trim, but says the vehicle won't be available until sometime in 2016, pending further testing. Production is set to take place in the United Kingdom, reports MotorAuthority, and the first models should roll off the production line later this year. Markets confirmed to date include the United States, Europe and Asia. Propulsion comes from a single electric motor rated at 285 horsepower with drive sent to the rear wheels only. Buyers can expect a zero-to-96 km/h time of 3.7 seconds, a top speed of 250 km/h and a driving range per charge of about 290 kilometres.

ALL STORIES AND PHOTOS FROM WHEELBASEMEDIA.COM

This is the production version of the Detroit Electric SP:01, but it's more than a year away.

Tiny Spira4u seeks global markets

Pilot production is underway in China for the electric- and gasoline-powered sub-subcompact Spira4u three-wheel urban vehicle, which marketers hope to bring to North America. Conceived as a low-cost (to make, own and operate) and hyper-economical vehicle, the Spira4u is an Automotive XPrize finalist and a cross between a car and a motorcycle. Its soft, honeycomb-composite structure protects up to two occupants in a collision, and the body from significant damage in parking lot fender-benders. The $6,200 gas-powered model delivers a top speed of 85 km/h and fuel efficiency of 2.9 L/100 km. The electric version reaches 100 km/h and goes 450 km per charge with one motor. A much faster two-motor model is also available.

The Spira4u is a bumper car that can shrug off light collisions. Made in China, the three-wheeler may be coming to North America soon.

Shift points

- Israeli company Storedot says it is a year away from marketing an electric-car battery that can be fully recharged in three minutes. If true and even remotely affordable, it would revolutionize the EV industry, putting it on equal refuel footing with gas engines.
- Johnson Controls says it has developed a small lithium-ion battery for use in vehicle stop-start systems, reports Automotive News. About the size of a tissue box and weighing just four kilograms, it can double current stop-start efficiency to eight per cent.
- Mazda says its 2016 MX-5 will be the first vehicle to incorporate parts made from a new bio-plastic it developed. The plastic is based on plant materials instead of petroleum, and does not require painting.

Hyundai's Tucson hydrogen-powered fuel-cell CUV coming soon to Canada

Hyundai says it will be the first automotive company to make hydrogen-fuel-cell electric vehicles available in Canada, and has launched a dedicated website to find the first Canadian customer. The Tucson fuel-cell electric will be available to customers on a three-year-lease, starting this spring in the Vancouver area. "We're planting the seed for a new segment of the industry," said Hyundai Canada CEO Don Romano. The challenge facing hydrogen-powered vehicles, he said, has been characterized by a chicken-and-egg scenario "where car companies won't bring fuel-cell vehicles to market without an infrastructure, and there is no need for a refuelling industry without customers." In fuel-cell vehicles, hydrogen is converted to electricity to power electric drive motors. A fill-up takes about five minutes.

Honda seeks energy efficiency from wind power

Honda has unveiled a wind farm in Brazil that generates enough electricity to meet the needs of its car-production plant in the state of Rio Grande do Sul, in southernmost Brazil. Honda says it is the first automaker to open a wind farm in that country, and expects the facility to generate all the electricity needed for its annual production, currently about 140,000 units, reports Green Car Reports. Honda has experimented with wind power before, installing turbines at its transmission plant in Ohio, although on a much smaller scale. The $47-million Brazil project is part of Honda's goal to cut its overall carbon-dioxide emissions by 30 per cent by 2020.

Kenguru EV hops on mobility bandwagon

Promising wheelchair-bound travellers a level of personal mobility never before possible, the first drive-from-wheelchair electric vehicle is under production in Pflugerville, Tex. The single-occupant Kenguru has a lone rear door that is operated by remote control, allowing the driver to wheel in, strap in, take control of the vehicle and, within seconds, be good to go. Designed more for urban areas than the open road, the 550-kilogram Hungarian-designed Kenguru is powered by two rear-axle electric motors, has a top speed of 50 km/h and a range of 70 to 110 kilometres per charge. It sells for about $31,000, before applying any electric-vehicle or mobility assistance funding that might be available in the buyer's jurisdiction.

Just drive in, lock down and drive off. Designed for drivers in a wheelchair, the Kenguru has a top speed of 50 km/h and a range of up to 110 km. It sells for about $31,000.

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What test car is Garry bringing us this week? We literally have no clue what will roll into the driveway until it's here, but who are we to doubt Garry Sowerby, who has a bazillion Guinness records for around-the-world driving? That's a bazillion more than we have, after all.
Come along and find out as we drive 'em, dirty 'em and shoot 'em with our phone cams. These are real-life, no-glam reviews.

JEFF MELNYCHUK
wheelbasemedia.com

Sporty and fun — all year round

Special delivery. You may look nuts driving it in the winter, but the Audi TT-S is even more fun on ice and snow, when grip is limited

With the right tires, the Audi TT-S is formidable and fun in all seasons. It is not a summer-only car, nor should it be for a cost of $63,000. JEFF MELNYCHUK PHOTOS

We don't ask where world-record road-tripper Garry Sowerby has been since we saw him last, because it makes us jealous — and also so the authorities can't brain-wash it out of us. It's safer for everyone, really.

But, for whatever reason, he always seems to bring me the coolest cars in the worst possible weather.

Case in point: Garry slides up in a shiny Imola Yellow Audi TT-S, and it has been the messiest and slipperiest stretch of crap weather we've had so far in this miserable winter.

I hate winter.

Can you tell?

But even normal people who are not Garry don't get why the TT is here, now.

"Do they not know where we live?" says a buddy from my gym who spies it in the parking lot.

I don't think Audi cares. The cars are made of metal, not sugar. It doesn't matter what time of year it is or what's under the tires.

My personal car is an Audi R8 and, with the right tires, it could be driven year-round, no problem.

So, while everyone else thinks Audi is nuts — and, by association, that I'm nuts for driving one in this weather — I don't care, either.

The Quattro all-wheel drive makes the TT-S formidable and fun in all seasons, especially in this icy junk, where the limits of grip are so dreadfully low. It's not a summer-only car, nor should it be for a cost of $63,000, plus tax.

Quoted

"Yeah, a Corvette has more power for less money, and probably looks better. But you're not going to see one of those out in a blizzard."

Yeah, a Corvette has more power for less money, and it's a newer design and probably looks better.

But you're not going to see one of those out in a blizzard, are you? At least not right-side up. That means you'll need another vehicle for the winter, and some place to store the Corvette.

With the rear seats folded, the hatch offers loads of cargo space.

The TT-S needs no such winter pinch-hitter, just the right winter tires.

However, something like an Audi S4 sedan or S5 coupe would provide more room. The TT has a back seat, but it's probably better-suited for surprise store purchases than the seating of two humans.

The great part is how much cargo room there is in the hatch when the rear seat is folded flat. It's a narrow space, but it's long. Good for road trips or bringing home 2x4s. Really.

The S has been at the top of the TT food chain since the raunchy, 360-horsepower RS exited the picture. But the TT-S is just as much fun.

Unfortunately, even with winter tires, the TT-S is in a constant state of traction-control intervention on anything but dry roads, partly because the 265-horsepower, four-cylinder engine — which is exclusive to the TT-S — has plenty of mid-range turbo-charged torque to break the tires free.

The TT has a back seat, but it's not really designed for two humans.

The paddle-shift transmission feels like it's tied to my thoughts rather than my fingers and, at each gear change when the engine revs drop, there's a cute little "blll-laaaap" farting sound coming out the quad tailpipes.

I laugh. Often.

The S is at the top of the TT food chain, since the satisfyingly raunchy 360-horsepower RS is out of the picture. I have to say the TT-S is just as much fun, but the difference in low-speed power between the two is night and day.

Until the TT-S starts making some revs, the pedal is almost dead. It just won't launch hard. Base TT models have 211 horsepower, but the same peak torque as the TT-S.

There's a new TT coming for 2016 with more power and likely a higher price. Get yours with winter tires. It's fun.

High-lows

WOWS: A yellow sports car in the dead of winter has the effect of a defibrillator. Baseball stitching for the seats never gets old. Shockingly little tire gap with the fenders. Its mid-range power reminds us of the TT-RS. Perfect winter transport while Corvettes sleep.

HMMS: Back seat? Funny. No matter how you slice it, $63,000 is a lot o' cash for 265 hp and all-wheel drive. Silver exterior accents? Uh, no, subtle is better.

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GT model shown

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GT models shown

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SL AWD Premium model shown▲

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Platinum model shown▲

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Platinum AWD model shown▲

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AUGMENTED REALITY

Stuck on 12 Across? Scan this image with your Metro News app for today's crossword and Sudoku answers. It's OK. No one's watching.

metro AR

→ See the full instructions on Metro's Voices page.

Horoscopes by Sally Brompton

♈ Aries
March 21 - April 20
Be more assertive about your opinions today, especially if you've kept your thoughts to yourself for a while. You don't have to shout but let others know what you believe.

♉ Taurus
April 21 - May 21
Others will go out of their way to keep you quiet today, because the truth is not what they want to hear. If you find yourself at odds with powerful people, don't back down.

♊ Gemini
May 22 - June 21
Be careful who you trust on the work front today because someone you think is a friend could be plotting to undermine your position.

♋ Cancer
June 22 - July 23
Now that Mercury, planet of the mind, is moving in your favour again you won't have much trouble working out what needs to be done. Get your financial affairs in order.

♌ Leo
July 24 - Aug. 23
You will hear something to your advantage over the next 24 hours. Don't be reluctant to believe it just because the source of the information has not always been reliable.

♍ Virgo
Aug. 24 - Sept. 23
Partnerships and relationships will be under important stars as the month moves on, so clear the decks for action now.

♎ Libra
Sept. 24 - Oct. 23
Your latest project will be a success, despite recent setbacks. Don't worry that you have not made as much progress as you would have liked. There is still plenty of time to get it right.

♏ Scorpio
Oct. 24 - Nov. 22
You should find it easier now to get along with people who, for one reason or another, have been a bit stand-offish of late.

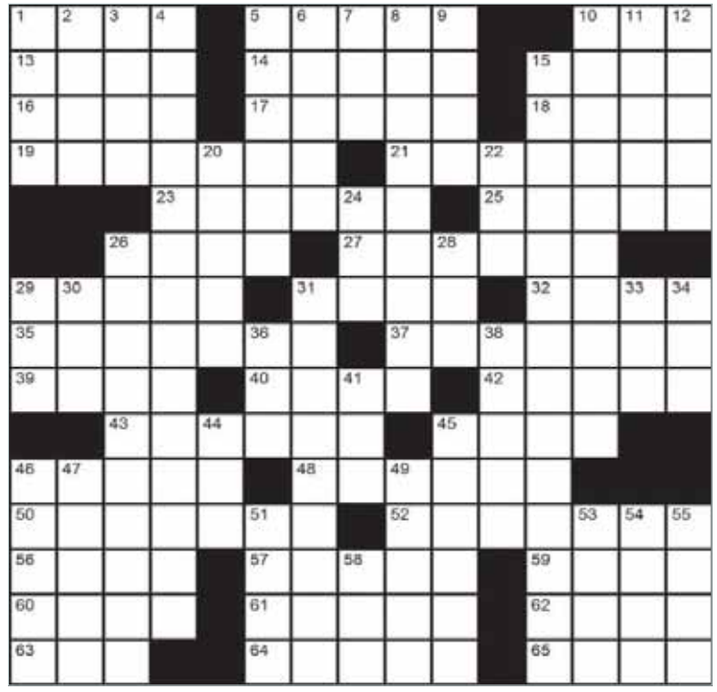
♐ Sagittarius
Nov. 23 - Dec. 21
If you get the chance to do a good deed for a friend over the next two or three days don't wait to be asked, just wade in and put things right for them.

♑ Capricorn
Dec. 22 - Jan. 20
Something that has been tormenting you these past few weeks will no longer seem such a problem after today. You will also be delighted to discover that you are not as poor financially as you thought.

♒ Aquarius
Jan. 21 - Feb. 19
Something that has gone wrong on several occasions over the past two or three weeks will start going right again as of today, which will lead to an improved outlook.

♓ Pisces
Feb. 20 - March 20
You will learn something you find hard to believe today. It has been in plain sight for a while, which begs the question: How did you manage to miss it?

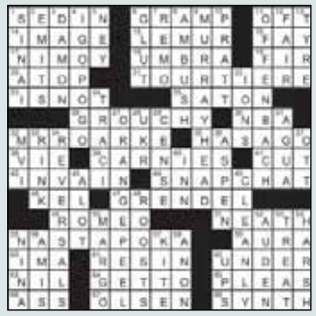
Crossword: Canada Across and Down by Kelly Ann Buchanan



Across
1. Fort __ Hill (Historic coastal artillery base in Colwood on Vancouver Island)
5. Economy class
10. Football positions, briefly
13. Helm position
14. 'Straight'-meaning prefix
15. Mouse-like critter
16. Type size
17. Bargain
18. Garfield's sidekick
19. 1982 Dustin Hoffman movie
21. Discount shoe store
23. 1965 to 1971 sitcom, "__ Heroes"
25. At _ __ (With consequences)
26. Scientology founder, _. __ Hubbard
27. Violinist Mr. Perlman
29. Stream
31. Kimono accessories
32. Robert De Who?
35. April Wine's "Just __ You and Me"
37. Gambling spots
39. Betty __ (Vintage cartoon/comic)
40. Hide-and-go-__
42. The Cremation of Sam __ (Yukon-set poem by Robert Service)
43. Australian airline
45. Jiffs
46. "It's _ __ thing." (Definitely)
48. __ Friday (Office's tie-less day)
50. President's Choice product, Deluxe White __ Macaroni & Cheese Dinner
52. Condense, literature-style
56. "The Littlest __" (Canuck dog series)
57. Disturbs
59. Grub
60. Balanced
61. Basket fibre
62. Lilypad lazer
63. __ hall (Student hangout)
64. Strong point
65. Scottish 'since'

Down
1. Bewitched
2. Oil: Italian
3. Design style, with Art
4. It comes 'two minutes too late' in Alanis Morissette's "Ironic": 3 wds.
5. Jointly endorse on the dotted line
6. "Coffee __ __?" (Restaurant query)
7. Chowed chowder
8. Dried lips balm
9. Greeting in Granada!
10. Blackie and the __ __ (Hamilton band)
11. Walking on air feeling
12. View, Bible-style
15. Steep formations in Gros Morne National Park in Newfoundland: 2 wds.
20. District on Vancouver Island's southern tip
22. James Ingram/Michael McDonald hit: "__ Mo B There"
24. Bill
26. Scratch tickets overseer in Montreal, __-__
28. Half of Ms. Gabor
29. 'Start With Trust' is this org.'s slogan
30. Vintage auto
31. Crossword's beginning...: 2 wds.
33. Eggs of fish
34. 'Lact' suffix
36. Approx.
38. Besmirch
41. NASA-like org. headquartered in Paris
44. '90s sitcom, "__ and Stacey"
45. Group within a group
46. Sore one
47. Rudely push
49. Room: French
51. Diva's vocal
53. Ellen DeGeneres-voiced fish in "Finding Nemo" (2003)
54. Hooligan
55. Cutting-__
58. TGIF part

Yesterday's Crossword

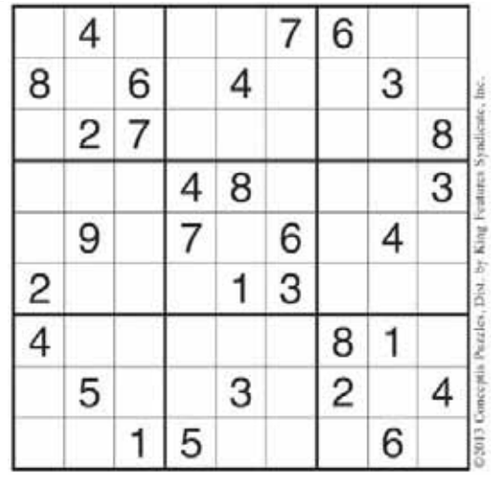


Online

See today's answers at metronews.ca/answers

Conceptis Sudoku by Dave Green

How to play
Fill in the grid, so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved.



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Yesterday's Sudoku

1	7	3	9	6	5	2	4	8
9	4	8	7	2	1	5	3	6
6	5	2	8	3	4	9	7	1
3	6	4	2	7	9	1	8	5
2	8	7	1	5	3	6	9	4
5	1	9	6	4	8	3	2	7
4	3	6	5	8	2	7	1	9
7	2	1	4	9	6	8	5	3
8	9	5	3	1	7	4	6	2

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IT'S SHOWTIME SALES EVENT

HERE'S YOUR TICKET TO THE HOTTEST OFFERS IN TOWN.

Starting From Price for 2015 Jeep Cherokee Limited shown: $32,490.§

Starting From Price for 2015 Dodge Grand Caravan SXT Blacktop shown: $31,485.§

GET TOTAL DISCOUNTS OF UP TO $9,500◊

INCLUDES $1,500 BONUS» CASH IF YOU ARE A LICENSED TRADESMAN OR IF YOU CURRENTLY OWN ANY PICKUP TRUCK

Starting From Price for 2015 Ram 1500 Laramie Crew Cab shown: $44,890.§

2015 JEEP CHEROKEE SPORT
BEST-IN-CLASS CAPABILITY∞

$24,495 AND GET AVAILABLE 0% FINANCING† FOR 36 MONTHS

Purchase Price includes freight, A/C charge, tire levy and OMVIC fee. Taxes excluded. Other retailer charges may apply.*

2015 DODGE GRAND CARAVAN CANADA VALUE PACKAGE – CANADA'S BEST-SELLING MINIVAN FOR MORE THAN 31 YEARS

$19,995 Purchase Price includes $8,100 Consumer Cash,* freight, A/C charge, tire levy and OMVIC fee. Taxes excluded. Other retailer charges may apply.*

OR CHOOSE

$110 BI-WEEKLY FINANCING† @ 3.49% FOR 96 MONTHS WITH $0 DOWN

Starting From Price for 2015 Dodge Journey Crossroad shown: $31,785.§

Starting From Price for 2015 Chrysler 200 C shown: $29,790.§

2015 RAM 1500 QUAD CAB SXT 4X4

$27,495 Purchase Price includes $8,000 Consumer Cash,* $1,500 Bonus Cash,» freight, A/C charge, tire levy and OMVIC fee. Taxes excluded. Other retailer charges may apply.*

OR STEP UP TO

2015 RAM 1500 CREW CAB SXT 4X4

$171 BI-WEEKLY FINANCING† @ 3.49% FOR 96 MONTHS WITH $0 DOWN

2015 DODGE JOURNEY CANADA VALUE PACKAGE - CANADA'S FAVOURITE CROSSOVER^

$19,995 Purchase Price includes $2,000 Consumer Cash,* freight, A/C charge, tire levy and OMVIC fee. Taxes excluded. Other retailer charges may apply.*

OR CHOOSE

$110 BI-WEEKLY FINANCING† @ 3.49% FOR 96 MONTHS WITH $0 DOWN

THE ALL-NEW 2015 CHRYSLER 200 LX
MOST AFFORDABLE MID-SIZE CAR IN CANADA±

$19,995 Purchase Price includes $3,500 Consumer Cash,* freight, A/C charge, tire levy and OMVIC fee. Taxes excluded. Other retailer charges may apply.*

OR CHOOSE

$110 BI-WEEKLY FINANCING† @ 3.49% FOR 96 MONTHS WITH $0 DOWN

OR

STEP UP TO THE 200 LIMITED FOR ONLY $12 MORE BI-WEEKLY

CHRYSLER Jeep DODGE RAM

chryslercanada.ca/offers

+Your local retailer may charge additional fees for administration/pre-delivery that can range from $0 to $1,098 and anti-theft/safety products that can range from $0 to $1,298. Charges may vary by retailer.

Wise customers read the fine print: ◊, », *, ‡, †, ∝, § The It's Showtime Sales Event offers are limited time offers which apply to retail deliveries of selected in-stock new and unused models purchased/leased from participating retailers on or after February 3, 2015. Offers subject to change and may be extended or changed without notice. All pricing includes freight ($1,695), air-conditioning charge (if applicable), tire levy and OMVIC fee. Pricing excludes licence, insurance, registration, any retailer administration fees, other retailer charges and other applicable fees and taxes. Financing and lease offers available to qualified customers on approved credit. Retailer order/trade may be necessary. Retailer may sell for less. ◊$9,500 in Total Discounts is available on new 2015 Ram 1500 models (excluding Reg Cab) and consists of $8,000 in Consumer Cash Discounts and $1,500 in Ram Truck Loyalty/Conquest Bonus Cash. See your retailer for complete details. »$1,500 Ram Truck Loyalty/Conquest/Skilled Trades Bonus Cash is available on the retail purchase/lease of 2014/2015 Ram 1500 (excludes Regular Cab), 2014 Ram 2500/3500, 2014 Ram ProMaster or 2014 Ram Cargo Van and is deducted from the negotiated price after taxes. Eligible customers include: 1. Current owners/lessees of a Dodge or Ram Pickup Truck or Large Van or any other manufacturer's Pickup Truck or Large Van. The vehicle must have been owned/leased by the eligible customer and registered in their name on or before February 1, 2015. Proof of ownership/lease agreement will be required. 2. Customers who are skilled tradesmen or are acquiring a skilled trade. This includes Licensed Tradesmen, Certified Journeymen or customers who have completed an Apprenticeship Certification. A copy of the Trade Licence/Certification required. 3. Customers who are Baeumler Approved service providers. Proof of membership is required. Limit one $1,500 bonus cash offer per eligible truck transaction. Some conditions apply. See your retailer for complete details. *Consumer Cash Discounts are deducted from the negotiated price before taxes. ‡3.49% purchase financing for up to 96 months available on new select models through RBC, Scotiabank and TD Auto Finance. Retailer order/trade may be necessary. Examples: 2015 Ram 1500 Crew Cab 4x4 SXT (25A+AGR+XFH)/2015 Dodge Grand Caravan Canada Value Package/2015 Dodge Journey Canada Value Package/2015 Chrysler 200 LX with a Purchase Price of $30,914/$19,995/$19,995/$19,995, with a $0 down payment, financed at 3.49% for 96 months equals 208 bi-weekly payments of $171/$110/$110/$110 with a cost of borrowing of $4,561/$2,950/$2,950/$2,950 and a total obligation of $35,474.79/$22,944.90/$22,944.90/$22,944.90. †0% purchase financing for up to 36 months available on new 2015 Jeep Cherokee models to qualified customers on approved credit through RBC, Scotiabank and TD Auto Finance. Retailer order/trade may be necessary. Example: 2015 Jeep Cherokee Sport 4x2 (24A) with a Purchase Price of $24,495 with a $0 down payment, financed at 0% for 36 months equals 78 bi-weekly payments of $314 with a cost of borrowing of $0 and a total obligation of $24,495. ∝Non-prime financing available on approved credit. 4.99% financing available on 2015 Ram 1500 Quad 4x4 SXT/2015 Chrysler 200 LX/2015 Jeep Patriot Sport 4x2. 6.99% financing available on select 2015 models. Financing examples: 2015 Ram 1500 Quad 4x4 SXT/2015 Dodge Grand Caravan Canada Value Package with a Purchase Price of $27,495/$19,995 financed at 4.99%/6.99% over 84 months, equals 182 bi-weekly payments of $179/$139 for a total finance obligation of $32,632.54/$25,341.15. Some conditions apply. See your retailer for complete details. §Starting From Prices for vehicles shown include Consumer Cash Discounts and do not include upgrades (e.g., paint). Upgrades available for additional cost. ∝Based on 2014 *Ward's* Middle Cross Utility segmentation. ±Based on 2014 *Ward's* Lower Middle Sedan segmentation. Based on MSRP of base models. Excludes other vehicles designed and manufactured by FCA US LLC. ^Based on IHS Automotive: Polk Canadian Vehicles in Operation data available as of July, 2014 for Crossover Segments as defined by Chrysler Canada Inc. ™The SiriusXM logo is a registered trademark of SiriusXM Satellite Radio Inc. ®Jeep is a registered trademark of FCA US LLC used under license by Chrysler Canada Inc.

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PROUD SPONSOR OF AMATEUR HOCKEY ACROSS CANADA